



The Community Services Guild

- In the cause of Women & Child Development



ANNUAL REPORT

2001



THIRUCHENGODU SAFE & MATHI PROJECT TEAM



SALEM PROJECT TEAM



EDAPADI PROJECT TEAM

Preface

Activity is eloquence Shakespeare

The dawning of twenty first century coincides with the twenty -first anniversary of community service guild. Whenever CSQ retrospect its activity, our activity fails to satisfy us, we always looking forward to face new challenges and adversatives. Our primary programmes are aimed at the welfare of the women include education and awareness building, our secondary activities focused on enabling the youth population to refine and reorganise the obsolete social orders.

This report will provide a glimpse of our activities. At this moment I appreciate and acknowledge my colleagues for their imaginative and tireless efforts makes things possible for us.

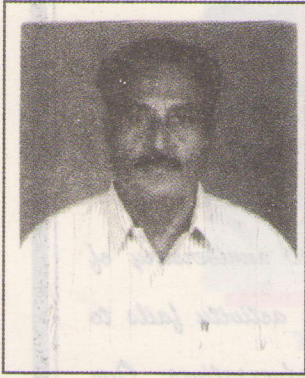
I would like to thank all our donors and partners for the continued support and assistance; with out them our dreams would have remained as daydream. Once again we re dedicate ourselves to build a nation for all without disparity.

Our greatest glory does not lie in never falling but lies in getting up every time we fall.

*Venkatachalam Ramanujam
Founder and Executive Director*

Thursday, 30 August 2001

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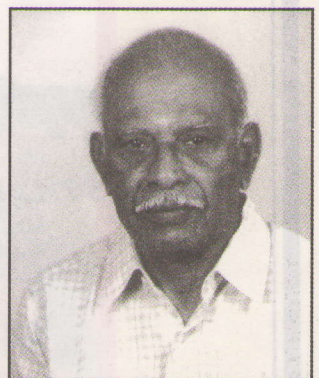
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THE COMMUNITY SERVICES GUILD ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrations are not unique or infrequent phenomena in the life of the Indians, as it is evident from a glance at the calendar. In India, irrespective of religion, there are many auspicious days in a calendar year. The Indian culture even splits the clock as auspicious and non-auspicious hours.

Celebrations are of three kinds, the first where the people pray and seek goodwill through offerings, the second conducted for expressing our gratitude for bestowed mercy, prosperity and progression by the nature, while the third kind is the celebration of victory of good over evil and light over darkness. Yagnas performed for a particular cause is an example of the first while Pongal is a depiction of the second. Deepavali, Easter, Ramzaan are some of the festivals for the third kind.

Two decades ago, if you had been to Karumandurai or villages of unified Salem district, you would have noticed that women were not educated enough even to express their desires. Your first glance at them would have made you feel these people were beyond the reach of the civilized world and even to have a dialogue with them was worthless, as they would have repeatedly made demands for water, road, food etc.

But, today the scenario has undergone a total transformation. They are now being treated on par with the others in the civilized society and have enhanced their self-esteem. How did all these things happen? It was on September 8th 1980, Mr. R. Venkatachalam, with a mission of creating a whole new society, instituted an organization wholly dedicated to this cause. It was a vision to create a society where every one had the access to

employment opportunities, basic health care, education without discrimination and disparity and other needed facilities. Thus came into existence, **THE COMMUNITY SERVICES GUILD [CSG]** proudly celebrating its 21st Annual Day. These celebrations are not of the first, second or the third kind but a blend of all these. We celebrate the progression of the underprivileged, the achievements of the ignored illiterate women and the conquest of poor women over patriarchal society and attitudes. So in a nutshell it is **PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

Once the affluent sections of the community discarded them and the bankers hardly thought them as reliable customers. Today their attitude towards them has changed since they started assisting banks to mobilize resources and also ensuring the loan repayments on time. They are also involved in the untold battles against Infanticide, Foeticide, dowry harassment, illiteracy, gender discrimination and other forms of violence and oppressions. On this occasion, we salute the women community for their bravery to challenge the obsolete ideas and mores and our staff for their relentless efforts in realizing the vision and mission of CSG.

VISION:

Blossoming of a harmonious society, where the needs of every one are met for a decent livelihood; equality of every individual is socially accepted and rights well protected

MISSION:

The CSG is a community based non-governmental organisation (NGO), set up to provide knowledge, develop leadership, build skills, and enable access to resources to the constituents and thus promote self-sustained development of the poor and a gender-equal society.

CSG PROJECTS - PAST... PRESENT ... FUTURE ...

GENESIS:

It was during the year 1977 the government of Tamilnadu launched massive schemes for Tribal Development especially in Kalrayan hills. Mr. Venkatachalam during a project evaluation study visited the hills and was dejected by the poor response from the tribal people for government

development programmes. Moreover, they were suffering from untold miseries like exploitation by the outsiders' since they were illiterates, ill health due to lack of proper medical care and ignorance of development programme. The hapless people miserably needed professional assistance. Mr. Venkatachalam then desired and was determined to

assist them and then The Community Service Guild was born.

In 1981 Kalrayan Women Development Scheme, (KALWODS) maiden project of CSG actively enabled the tribal community to carry out diversified economic activity such as dairy, rearing sheep and goats besides poultry. The project motivated women to register and arranged a Tribal Women Milk producer Cooperative Society to cater the economic needs of the society. The project raised literacy rate, electrification of streets and domestic units, afforestation to preserve forest wealth. The project was successfully completed and handed over to the trained community as Palangudi Pengal Pannokku Iyakkam [PPPI] for sustaining the initiated activity.

The CSG decided to extend its services to the urban and rural poor and the City Slum welfare Scheme (SWELS) was initiated in 1981 to serve the slum dwellers. The slums covered under this scheme were from Sathyavani Muthu Nagar, East Cement Road, Gowthamapuram, Fisherman Colony and Keerathottam. Women and youth groups were formed to provide education on health, environment and sanitation. The important aspect of the health programme, the Mobile Clinic Programme, had the service of one qualified doctor and two clinic assistants. The programme assisted thousands of people to access basic health care, a rare facility in those days.

To alleviate the poverty, CSG started Women Self Employment Scheme (WOSEM). The project was initiated to support the women employed in the unorganised sectors by organising them in to groups and helping them with credit assistance from banks. The activities also included promotion of adult education, formation of night schools and enhancing handicraft skills. The project implemented in the municipal limits of Salem and Cuddalore assisted the women to become vendors of vegetables, producers of pots, mats and other household handicrafts, and also managers in canteens, cycle stores etc. The project successfully trained the constituents and now continues to manage as Pengal Pannokku Iyaakkam [PPI]

CAPART and CSG partnered together for solving drinking water problems of small hamlets of Poondi block as in the name of Poondi Drinking Water Scheme Project. CSG assisted the locals in the making of overhead tanks, wells in several villages. CSG trained the panchayat members and the community in maintaining the resources provided to them and on July 1989, the project was completely undertaken by the community.

The CSG started Tamilnadu Educational Foundation on 1984 to support other voluntary organisations in the field of development. The project intended to provide special support in the fields of Education, Training and Research. Many organisations benefited themselves through numerous training programmes as in those days only a few institutions were involved in training and fostering the other voluntary organisations.

In 1991 CSG in partnership with Tamilnadu Corporation for the Development of Women executed Salem District Women Development Scheme in Erumaipatty, Sendamangalam, Paramathy, Namagiripet, Ayothiapatnam, Mohanur and Panamarathupatti of unified Salem district. A total of 410 groups were formed with 9100 women and 5730 women were assisted for credit facility through nationalised banks.

Achievements

1. The earning abilities multiplied
2. Better water management through Micro-Water shed programme
3. Preservation and Promotion of Agro forestry, Horticulture, Sericulture and Animal husbandry
4. Providing Training and Technical assistance for generating non-farm activities.

The first phase of the project was successfully completed and the second phase of sustainability commenced from 1996.

CSG'S ACTIVITIES AT KALRAYAN HILLS



A Women's Association Meeting in session



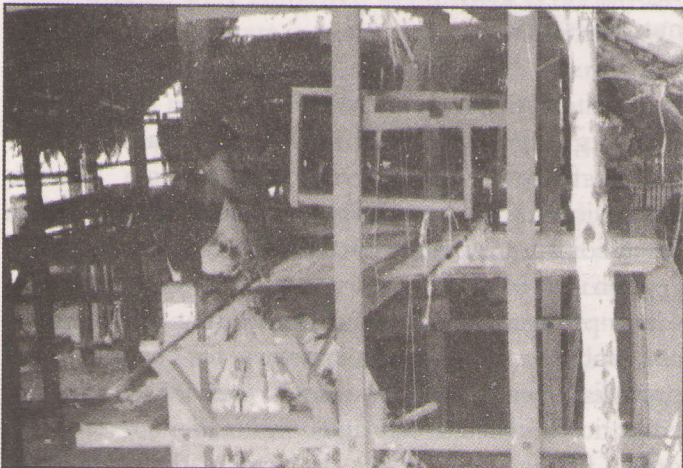
Nursery raising for afforestation by CSG



Silk Reeling



Women in Silk Spinning



Koragrass mat weaving helped tribal women to raise income in the initial stages



Involving in the Agriculture

PROJECT: SALEM WOMEN DEVELOPMENT SCHEME [SALWODS II]

PROJECT OFFICE: SALEM AND NAMAKKAL

AREA OF OPERATION: Sendamangalam, Erumaipatty, Namagiripettai, Paramathy And Mohanur Blocks of Namakkal District

Panamarthupatti And Ayothiyapatnam Blocks Of Salem District



PROJECT OBJECTIVES: To create awareness about women's existing condition and assist them to overcome the same.

To avail proper continued Credit delivery system to have financial management by the groups.

To help them to become economically self reliant and empowered in order to reduce the inequality between sexes.

To take up social and community welfare activities to govern the village development

Group Monitoring and Management

The Project is implemented to sustain the activity carried out during SALWODS I. The congregated community as women groups have been monitored, guided and motivated to perform as per the desire of the project. The groups successfully perform as per the design of the project conducting regular group meetings with maximum attendance, optional regular savings. The descent of External facilitation giving way to the ascent of group participation in managing group activities have become prominent visible features of these groups.

BLOCK	Groups	Members	Savings	CLF Formed	CLF MEMBERS
SENDAMANGALAM	62	1026	5318650	4	118
ERUMAIPATTY	63	1218	3888112	4	116
MOHANOOR	94	1671	4834168	6	130
PARAMATHY	110	1833	4889872	4	142
NAMAGIRIPETTAI	87	1625	4390648	4	118
AYOTHIAPATNAM	90	1591	9633926	5	142
PANANMARATHU-PATTI	62	1180	6363041	4	96
TOTAL	568	10144	39318417	31	862

Group activities are planned to raise financial managing ability of women on par with men and that is considered as vital progress of the programme. The distant goal of attaining gender equality could be achieved through socio-economic progression of women. CSG activities provide an opportunity to develop the income earning ability of women to create resources for employment through vocational training centres.

Gender Equality

CSG is making efforts to preserve freedom from strife in the family and society by bringing complete realization of human rights, fundamental freedom to women and educate the community to identify the barriers that dispel their progress, design and plan the strategy to arrest the problems, enabling the ability of the women to determine the destination.

Legal aid programme initiated by CSG enables the women to understand their rights and to gain confidence in adversity. The laws discussed in the training are Dowry Prohibition Act, Indecent Representation of Women, The Immoral Traffic (prevention) Act, Marriage Acts, Minimum Wages Act, etc.

CSG activities are designed to make the women as performers and administrators of their domain, assisting them to define destination, converting vulnerability into forte. The intervention intends to make women reform the gender disparity. Now there is an even greater awareness among them to have nutritious food and numerous demonstrations were carried out to educate the women on preparing low cost nutritious food.

Access to Financial Assistant

Through group training programme CSG successfully promotes recognition of gender dimensions of poverty and gender equality is important for eradicating poverty particularly in relation to the feminisation of poverty. CSG pursues a two-pronged approach of promoting employment and income generating activities for women and providing access to basic social services, including education and health care and continued micro credit & other financial assistance to widen the economic opportunities to curtail the poverty of female-headed households in the rural areas. Now every members has accepted that gender inequalities and disparities in economic power sharing, unequal distribution of

unremunerated work between men and women, lack of control over capital and resources, land, credit and access to labour market, harmful traditional practices exacerbated the feminisation of poverty.

BLOCK	Groups	Members	Loans	Amount	Recovery Percentage
SENDAMANGALAM	62	1026	1363	10117456	95
ERUMAIPATTY	63	1218	1380	8784248	85
MOHANOOR	94	1671	1508	11844424	92
PARAMATHY	110	1833	1999	17871527	93
NAMAGIRIPETTAI	87	1625	1617	11630400	87
AYOTHIAPATNAM	90	1591	1727	13745920	91
PANANMARATHU-PATTI	62	1180	1339	8937164	96
TOTAL	568	10144	10933	82931139	



Employment Generation

Entrepreneur development activity increased women participation in the employment market, subsequently resulting in partial gaining of economic autonomy. CSG collected the data on members' existing traditional business skills and it has found that members had the skills on trades like Carpentry, Mat Weaving, Pottery, Beedi Rolling, Coir making, Silk weaving, brick making, lime kiln, thatch and Appalam making. Presently the members are instructed to commence domestic industry to expand the earning power with loans from banks to initiate.

Many women were employed in informal economy as subsistence producers in rural areas with low level of income, irregular workdays, lack of social security. To realize equal pay for women and men for equal work, work of equal value CSG trained group members through entrepreneur development programme in skills like Synthesising detergent soap, clothe whitener, making black metal, running services centre like power loom, catering, bakery, masala powder, dry cleaning, renting vessels, cycle repairing, audio system, meat stall, garments, beauty parlour, grocery stores and hand crafts such as toys making, wire basket making, embroidery, coir basket.

Health Care Programmes

CSG initiated activities to raise the consciousness of the sexual, reproductive health and rights of the women. All the group members were trained in RCH

and MCH by the training department of CSG and more women were assisted to receive government financial assistance scheme to meet the medical expenses and nutritional food expenses during pregnancy.



Many health awareness programmes are conducted in the village on preventing AIDS, communicable and non-communicable diseases. The village health nurse was fully utilized by the group members by vaccinating most of the children and providing polio drops against respective diseases. The groups also actively carry out polio camps in coordination with the government health department.

Preserving Female Foetus

CSG through counselling programme provides information on availability and access to appropriate, affordable quality health services to the women in the villages to stripe away the social taboo's which negates accessing the medical care and prelude them to become a prey to the quacks.

Advocacy on preventing illegal scanning is carried out by CSG and is also lobbying with the medical practitioners to address this with the group members trained on the concepts of legal prevention of scanning

Beneficiaries of the project

CSG at present directly relates with more than 10000 families. The village as a whole becomes an indirect beneficiary through participating or utilizing the programmes, and the group members are assisting the community to attain benefits through the following activities:

- i. Group activity
- ii. Community awareness programme
- iii. Counselling programme
- iv. Vocational training programme
- v. Health & Education Programme
- vi. Rural development programme.
- vii. Awareness camps.
- viii. Preventive health activities.
- ix. Gender equality
- x. Legal aid programme.

Cluster Level Federation [CLF]

Cluster level federations are constituted by several self-help groups of same geographical area and having a close proximity with each other to address the common issues, which are considered as hurdles to the progress of the individuals in the community.

Objectives:

Establishing an infanticide free, gender equal and dowry less society will be the primary and sole objective of the cluster level federation

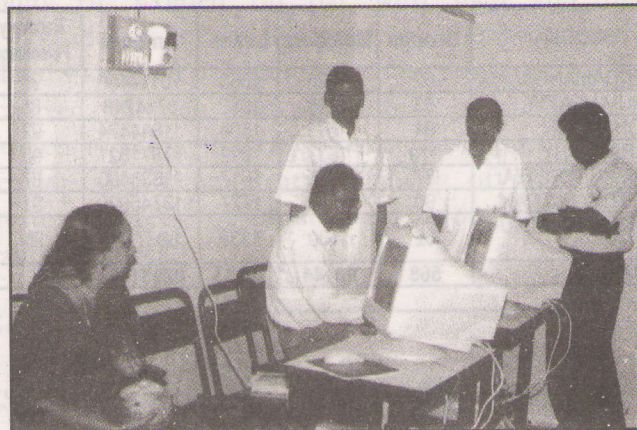
- Guaranteeing community involvement in programme management
- Replenishment of Group organizers as counselors
- Regenerating the managerial ability of the group organizers to sustain activities
- Lessening the progressing involvement of the voluntary organization

Cluster Level Federations are formed in order to lessen the dependency on CSG and promote self-sufficiency to manage the existing resources and to establish new ones as per the need of the society. Planning together and growing together are the vital objectives of the CLF. Presently 29 CLF's are carrying out the following activities:

- ☞ Federation meets once in a month to analyse the completed activities and assists the Cluster Coordinator to identify the villages in need of immediate intervention.
- ☞ The Federations are entrusted to monitor the progress and functions of the group
- ☞ They assist the groups to celebrate International days to gain information on various fields such as health care, legal remedies, social evils, women education, and rights. Celebrating the International Days aims to provide better understanding and do the necessary actions. Awareness camps are also organized to spread the importance.
- ☞ The federations were also trained in basic counselling skills. These skills help them in monitoring infanticide and foeticide at the village level and

- ☞ Identifying trainees for Vocational Training Centre.

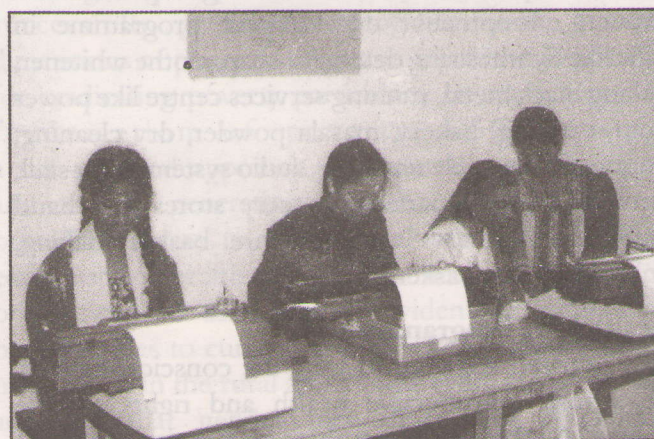
- ☞ Executing Community Action Program and Social Action Program



VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Project	Trade & Centres			Enrolled Members
	Tailoring	Computer	Typing	
Salem	2	1		59
Namakkal	2	2		106
Thiruchengode	5	2	3	244
Edapadi	2			94
Chennai			1	25
Total	11	5	3	528

The vocational centres help to defy dependence on seasonal agricultural activity. The women and girls have an opportunity to supplement the income and more over it helps them to have passage with an alternative employment. The trainees are provided with technical education along with regular career guidance programs, counselling sessions, preventive education program and life coping skills. Many people have their own tailoring machines to enhance their family income. The Trained computer students have got jobs in various private firms as Electronic Data entry Operators in and around Namakkal districts.



PROJECT: SAVE THE FEMALE CHILD [SAFE]

PROJECT OFFICE: THIRUCHENGODE

**AIDED BY: CHILD RERELIEF AND YOU
[CRY] NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INDIA
[NFI]**

**AREA OF OPERATION: Thiruchengode,
Mallasamudhram and Kabilarmalai blocks of
Namakkal District**

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Eradicate female infanticide in the project areas
- To provide a proven model for government to replicate in other female infanticide prone areas
- To bring about attitude changes towards equality of sexes



PROJECT BACKGROUND

As man intended to seek pleasure in all walks of life, the human weakness refused to accept equity in society. Gender disparity and discrimination is such kind of repressive mechanisms unleashed towards women and explicit as false perception of men supremacy over women. The women considered as weaker sex were distantly placed in social and religious sphere of life. They were always prone to become an endangered tribe through out the history of human but now they are prone to another kind of threat that questions even the existence of females.

MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM - INFANTICIDE

Namakkal district, recently bifurcated from Salem district, reported an alarming reduction in female proportion in the juvenile sex ratio [JSR]. In 1961 it was 990 but in 1991 it curved in to 849. If the

scenario prolongs for another two or three decades, probably the female species will be in danger of being declared as an endangered species as in the case of rare animals and birds.

For the past two decades, CSG has been serving the rural poor of Salem and Namakkal districts relentlessly to build a society to reanimate the empowerment of women to prevent Infanticide and foeticide besides promoting economic and social interests.

PROJECT ACTIVITY

- Mobilising the community as Women and Youth groups
- Educate and Train the community on various evils of the society
- Enable the community to practice and execute the learning
- Role transformation of the community from beneficiary to benefactor

GROUP'S IN PROJECT AREA

ACTIVITY	GROUPS	MEMEBRS
WOMEN GROUP	543	9456
YOUTH GROUP MALE	168	2140
YOUTH GROUP FEMALE	173	1682
VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL	150	1200
CLUSTER LEVEL FEDERATION	29	1086
INETRAFCE SCHOOL	4	450
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION	7	350

CSG organises women groups to

- ☞ To eradicate female infanticide/foeticide with in the village
- ☞ To combat the forces lead to the oppression of women
- ☞ To take up and critically discuss gender issues
- ☞ To oppose the practice of dowry in the village, educate them to aware that accepting or offering dowry is a crime.
- ☞ To educate their female children minimum of XIIth std.
- ☞ Awareness programs on comprehensive health care
- ☞ Health camps on pre and antenatal care and promoting men participation on family planning.
- ☞ To explore entrepreneurial opportunities to promote buying power
- ☞ Maximizing the savings potentials of the local women in saving groups

- ☞ To raise their children with out gender bias, ensuring provision of equal care, food, schooling, play time
- ☞ Franchising in equal participation in social, religious obligation
- ☞ Striving to wards equality in all walks of life and skirmishing against oppresses



Women groups also conduct regular meetings. They are involved in training women to understand their role in the society, help them fight against social stigma, female infanticide etc. They are also trained to continuously monitor the progress of the activities through family counseling.

CSG organized Youth groups to

1. To provide an platform to share the views on various social evils
2. Communicate the wants of younger generation
3. Promote youth participation in the development of the village.
4. Assigning responsibility to the youth group to carry village development activities

Activities

- ☞ Carry out Advocacy for eradicate female infanticide with in the village
- ☞ Discussing gender issues in the group meeting and pledging not to give or receive dowry
- ☞ Pledge not to marry before 21
- ☞ Attending vocational training programme to look for an alternate employment
- ☞ Energetically participating in community development activities healthy recreational Programs
- ☞ Exhibiting innate talents in street plays, newsletter, cultural programme, monologues
- ☞ To strive for gender equality.

Youth Group conducts regular meetings. Training programmes are conducted at the weekly group meetings and more women youth groups formed with the cooperation from the youth groups. Adolescent problems, gender equality, and career

guidance programme are given primary importance while the groups were directed to understand the need of respecting and protecting women for the welfare of mankind. The youth group functions as male and female units separately at present and training is imparted according to their needs. Efforts are being made to synchronize their activities in the near future.

The Youth Groups now organize awareness programs in the village with the partnership of women groups. The youth group conduct awareness programs at villages on subjects dealing with Health and Environment, Legal Education & Human Rights, Status of Rural Women, Sexually Transmitted Disease and AIDS awareness, role of Volunteers in Village development and Physical Education.

TRAINING:

Training places a vital role in the developing the attitude of the community. The training officers, divisional and cluster coordinators frequently conduct training programmes to educate the locals and group organizers. Efforts are taken to ensure emotional intelligence needs are satisfied during the training session. Monthly reviews are conducted to evaluate the performance of training officers and trainers in the presence of the Senior Training Officers and amendments suggested for better presentation to live up to the motto "*strive for better than the best!*"

INTER FACE SCHOOL:

CSG interface school programme was initiated due to the reasons given below

1. Poverty has an enormous bearing on girls' chances of schooling, as boys tend to get preference where the income is very low. The severe discrimination in labour market, less pay than men are the other factors that work against female child education.
2. The distance of schools is another important factor that places a question mark on the safety of the girls. They are away from domestic chores for a longer period of time and this is yet another factor against the female education.
3. Non-availability of separate schools and absence of female teachers are the other major factors inhibiting the enrolments of girl children in higher education.

CSG executes Interface School Programme in 4 schools of Mallasamudhram and Thiruchengode blocks. The primary aim is to form Parent Teachers Association. So far 7 PTA has been formed in seven schools. The teachers were trained not only teach subjects but other social, moral, behavioural values as well.

The project has been bringing the following changes

- ☞ Increase in the enrolment and retention of female girl children in the schools.
- ☞ Infusing a new blood in the teaching methods
- ☞ Encouraged the parents to care about their children education
- ☞ Exploring possibilities for improving the facilities of school.
- ☞ Promotion of extra curriculum activities such as sports and arts

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY:

The trained community carried out activities for the benevolence local community such as Cleaning the community toilets, donating chairs, tables, prizes and clocks to school, donating plates and tumblers to Noon Meal Scheme, donating mats and plates for balwadi, organizing rural sports meet, temple cleaning and tree plantation, road repairing, laying new roads, toilet construction, over head water tank construction, transport facility, settling dowry issues, preventing violence against women, village cleaning, construction of post office, celebration of National Days, organising Polio Camp, Ration Shop, Construction of TV hall, assisting fire victims, donating tailoring machines to the widows and disabled etc.



VILLAGE AWARENESS CAMPS:

Village awareness camps are carried out in the villages in corporation with the local community, to promote participation and improve the organizing ability of the group members to work together in the villages. CSG makes persistent efforts to ensure that community should expand its ability to carry out the activities and its capacity to communicate with the public departments to cater the needs of individual as well as the society. The community is encouraged to carry out.

Tree plantations, health and legal aid programme, Animal husbandry camp, Siddha medicine & home

medicines, Health and sanitation, Prenatal care, Youth day rally, Pregnancy and immunization, Low cost toilets, Aids Awareness Programme, Physical health & fitness, Rally against Child labour, foeticide, infanticide, Preventive education.

MASS COMMUNICATION PROGRAM:

The Mass Communication Program aims to educate the community through entertainment. The cultural programs strongly advocate women education, evils of dowry and addiction. The primary concentration will be on prevention of Foeticide and infanticide and gender equality.

SPONSORSHIP:

To promote the education of Female children CSG supports the families of girl children. CSG distribute free uniforms and pay the fee for continuing education the basic objective is to

- ☞ Reduce the dropout rate of female youth
- ☞ Reduce the yearly marriage of female youth
- ☞ Help improve the quality and quantity of education received
- ☞ Broaden future employment and self employment opportunities

This program supports 300 families every year.

NEWSLETTER:

Community Services Guild published its first newsletter on the third week of the May 2001. The newsletter highlighted the social issues that are hard burning today and how the youth with the assistance of CSG have countered each issue. It also had career guidance features apart from their intellectual presentations like essays, poetries etc. The newsletter being the first of its kind received a tremendous response from the community and efforts are being made to increase the frequency.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY:

Economic development propels women to attain emotional satisfaction and lessen the dependency on the males for fulfilling their every day requirement, and enable them to have an access with the persistent credit facility from the Banking Institution. The group carry out following income-generating activities

1. Provision Stores
2. Marriage catering service
3. Animal Husbandry
4. Roof Thatching, power loom
5. Ready made garments
6. Candle making
7. Renting vessels

FAMILY COUNSELLING PROGRAM

In SAFE, Counselling Program is considered as the main constituent. Through counselling CSG has been able to reach women at their doorsteps and build rapport with the family members. It enables the organization to assess tangible and intangible changes. CSG has been trying to bring

3. To conduct training programmes, social action camps and community development activities in collaboration with the community.
4. To enhance more participation in monitoring infanticide in their villages and nurture equal rights for women in every social and cultural aspects.



CSG organised and trained 125 Village Developmental Councils to support the village development activity and prevent infanticide in the village. The groups do have an opportunity to contribute to the village making them role models for the rest. The Major activities of Village Development Council are as follows :

- ☞ Monitors infanticide incidence in the village
- ☞ Facilitate the formation of PTA
- ☞ Assisting people to solve their domestic problems

attitudinal, behavioural changes. Decisive measures are carried out to change community attitude towards elimination of infanticide and foeticide. The transition period of the project is visibly seen among the different age groups. Every week meetings are organised for pregnant women with the local VHN requested to attend the same without fail to explain Prenatal and Antenatal care to the women.

- ☞ The council supports the education of female child through scholarships
- ☞ Preserving and seeking basic amenities
- ☞ Village development council works in tandem with Cluster level federation to solve the problems in the community and providing assistance to the lesser developed.

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENTAL COUNCIL

Objectives:

1. To foster coordination between group and non-group members, elected village panchayat members to work for the progression of the villages.
2. To assist them in defining and redrawing the strategies to explore the existing resources.



FAMILY COUNSELLING STATISTICS

Name of the PROJECT	Pregnant Women Identified	High Risk	Low Risk	Saved Baby	Infanticide	Foeticide	New born		Cases			Natural death		Family planning		Twins
							Male	Female	Follow up	Discontinued	Closed	Male	Female	Temporary	Permanent	
Thiruchengode	5776	1758	4018	567	22	218	2279	2122	2527	172	3077	108	120	146	890	15
Namakkal	1447	433	1044	33	9	3	491	403	614	0	863	5	3	89	11	2
Salem	832	353	479	31	10	12	203	169	483	0	349	6	31	31	58	0
Edapadi	589	159	430	51	0	0	91	88	341	64	184	1	0	13	49	0
Total	8644	2703	5971	682	41	233	3064	2782	3965	236	4473	120	154	279	1008	17

PROJECT: MAHALIR THITTAM

PROJECT OFFICE: SALEM, NAMAKKAL, EDAPADI AND THIRUCHENGODE.

AIDED BY: Tamilnadu Corporation for the Development of Women [DEW]



AREA OF OPERATION: Sendamangalam, Erumaipatty, Paramathy, Mohanur, Rasipuram, Namagiripettai, Puthuchatiram, Thiruchengode, Mallasamudhram Kabilarmalai and Elachipalayam blocks of Namakkal Dist.

Salem, Ayothiapatnam, Panamarathupatti, Vazhapadi, Mecheri, Edapadi, Nangavalli, Sankari and Pethanaicken palayam blocks of Salem district.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: Empower The Women In Rural/Urban Areas, this empowerment of women would lead to benefit at two levels:

1. Direct benefits to the individual women and women groups
2. Development benefits for families and community as a whole

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

This programme is deigned to

- ☞ Enable the women to attain empowerment in all walks of life and to redefine and reform the socio culture practices that dispel equity with man.
- ☞ Drive the women to commence entrepreneurial activity to support the family economically and asserting their role in domestic decision making

Basic emphasis of this program is to promote progression of economic state of women through micro credit and to mobilize the community in groups to create assets in activities related to farming, live stock management, watershed

management, silk production, oil seed cultivation, training to sharpen the skills of the participants etc.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- ☞ Identification of women living under below poverty line.
- ☞ Mobilization and enlistment of women.
- ☞ Organise the women as groups.
- ☞ Training the group members in group and development concept.
- ☞ Motivate to augment the saving.
- ☞ Monitoring the progress performances of the group.
- ☞ Ensuring continued affordable credit facility
- ☞ Facilitating the members to carry out development activity.
- ☞ Enhancing entrepreneurial ability of the women.
- ☞ Developing the leadership qualities and managerial ability of the group.

PROJECTS AND BLOCKS

PROJECT OFFICE	COVERED BLOCKS
Salem	1.Salem, 2.Ayothiapattinam, 3.Panamarathu patty, 4.Vazhapadi& 5.Peddhanaickanpalayam.
Edapadi	1.Mecheri, 2.Edapadi, 3.Nangavalli & 4.Sanakri.
Thiruchengode	1.Thiruchengode, 2.Mallasamuthiram, 3.Kabilarmalai, 4.Elachipalayam & 5.Rasipuram
Namakkal	1.Sendamangalam, 2. Erumaipatty. 3.Paramathi, 4.Mohanur, 5. Namagiripettai & 6.Puduchatiram.



PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

PROJECT	Panchayats existing	Panchayats covered	Villages existing	Villages Covered
Salem	127	121	602	266
Namakkal	132	120	644	422
Thiruchengode	130	130	812	390
Edapadi	69	69	658	310
TOTAL	458	440	2716	1388

GROUPS IN THE PROJECT AREA

Project	Blocks	Groups	Members	Savings In Rs.
Salem	5	607	10531	91,31,267
Namakkal	6	947	14251	1,36,95,961
Thiruchengode	5	984	17014	1,24,55,022
Edapadi	4	658	9639	58,03,639
TOTAL	20	3196	51435	4,10,85,889

Village advisory Committee

A village advisory committee (VAC) is constituted in 350 villages to identify and plan and execute the village development activity. Village advisory committee is comprised of representatives from all categories such as men, women and youth. The VAC carries out developmental activities on its own besides of coordinating with local Panchayat.

SAVINGS

The main thrust of the project activity is to motivate and educate the poor women to understand that they too can "save" and access credit facility from banks with out collateral but with only the minimum banking protocols.

The overall saving by the members in all the blocks is a whopping Rs. 4,10,85,889, - an incredible effort!!! It clearly states that if the poor women gather together it is possible for them to find adequate resources to support themselves. The members are not only trained to save in the groups alone but also are encouraged to save in banks, post offices, chits, etc.

LOANS

The greatest barrier for progression of women is lack of continued loan facility with affordable remittance conditions. Repayment of loans is crucial in determining the fate of purpose of availing loans. If women borrow from the local moneylenders to commence some income generating activity, they may have to usually repay thrice or four times. The very purpose of taking a loan for development is defeated and further worsens the economic conditions. CSG successfully transformed the scenario to an greater extent by

1. Assisting the community to obtain affordable reliable continued loan facility through banks for commencing development enterprises.
2. Providing relief from the clutches of moneylenders and pawnbrokers
3. Training the community to commence entrepreneur activity with adequate monitoring

to ensure the loans availed are utilised properly for the availed reasons

2. Educating to understand the need for repaying the borrowed loans.

The group members gained confidence in mobilizing resources for satiating needs of the community as well as individuals thereby causing a significant paradigm shift in the developmental process as articulate manager from mute participant.

The financial assistance that has been availed by the community is depicted in the table given below:

PROJECT	Groups Received		Loan Amount	
	SHG	SJSY	SHG	SGSY
Namakkal	278	149	11944750	2200000
Salem	106	214	4095000	11530000
Edapadi	50	55	1282300	1375000
Thiruchengode	183	95	25829500	2490745
Total	443	513	43151550	17595745

Regular weekly group meetings are carried out by the groups and periodical evaluation and monitoring done by the CSG.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The groups are trained to carryout village, social and community development activities for the benevolence of local community. The group activities can be classified as follows

INDIVIDUALS:

Financial Aid: The group supports destitute, orphans and widows financially to commence business to earn by providing vessels for canteen activity. The group even donated a significant amount for managing marital expenses for poor group members.

Education: The group liberally donates towards promotion of girl child education. The group members pay all the educational expenses for poor brilliant students.



Settling the disputes: The group is also actively engaged in settling down domestic problems of women, such as dowry, physical and verbal abuse,

infrastructure, and in a few instances group members have also been elected as Panchayat leaders and counsellors



violence, harassment, problems due to addictive behaviour etc.

Victims: The group also assist the individuals who suffer due to natural calamities such as fire, flood etc. by providing necessary relief materials and financial aid for quick restoration of normal life

INSTITUTIONS:

School: A large number of groups now realise the importance of education and are actively looking for avenues to participate or contribute towards the same. Their activities included colour washing, getting new furniture, clock, appointing additional teachers etc.

Noon Meal Centre: Observing that many noon meal centres in schools are not provided with enough vessels, the groups donated vessels to the centres so that the activity is not affected in any way.

Crèche: The groups donates plates, tumblers, mats and toys for the crèche run by the government and these contributions has enabled the centre to render its services to satisfactory level

Panchayat: Group members attend all the panchayat meetings and gramasabha meetings. In addition they also actively participate in meetings to draw plans for developing the village

Community:

Awareness Camps: The groups organise many awareness programme for the benevolence of the local community highlighting various issues that are relevant to the particular area like legal awareness programme, preventive health care programme, adolescent education, health camps, eye camps, hygienic health education etc.

Entrepreneur activity: CSG initiated attempts to promote group entrepreneurial activity intended to grow together. The group carries out Detergent making, Renting food

vessel, Provision shop, Cycle shop, Snack shop, Tailoring, Agriculture, Masala powder making, Wire basket making, Embroidery, Toy Making and Basket making.

Preserving community assets: The groups are motivated to preserve the community assets such as community toilets, public buildings and other community amenities such as over head water tank, taps, lamp post and ration shops etc.

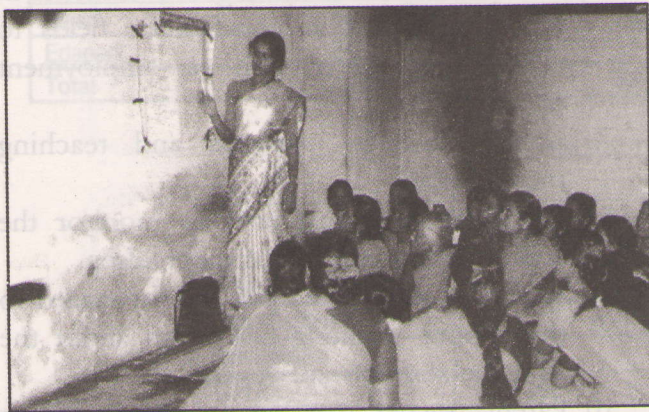
Demanding the needs: The women groups are also educated to feel the needs of the community from time



to time, address the issues to the proper authorities in the proper manner and also monitor the progress of the projects once they are started.

WOMEN'S SELF EMPLOYMENT SCHEME [WOSEM]

The project is initiated to assist poor women who want to start small business or the women already carrying out some petty business in and around Chennai. The project exhibits relentless efforts of poor women to organise themselves as groups and mobilise their own resources through savings. The project reaches the poor women even in inaccessible terrains. The project extends its activity in 19 suburb areas of Chennai city namely Ponnammalle and Pattabiram. The project is initiated to benefit the poor in urban areas too since the government self help group programme is not applicable for urban areas.



Project Activities

- ☞ Formation of groups with minimum 20 Members with 2 organisers
- ☞ Conducting regular monthly meeting for the groups
- ☞ Conducting Training programmes on various income generation programmes
- ☞ Providing counselling and Guidance to the group
- ☞ Doing referral service to the needy person
- ☞ Planning and preparing group development programmes
- ☞ Visiting Default, dormant groups for strengthening the groups through CLF EC members involvement

- ☞ Analysing the group repayment capacity and finalizing the loan amount
- ☞ Conducting Monthly CLF meetings
- ☞ Planning and carrying out income generation activities in cluster level
- ☞ Addressing the gender related problems

Group Members Employment Details

Total villages	-	19
Total Groups	-	53
Default and dormant groups	-	9
Total Activating groups	-	44
Total Members	-	760
Total T.D outstanding	-	Rs. 4,93,190
Total Group welfare Amount	-	Rs. 69,638.28
Total Loan Outstanding	-	Rs. 4,07,867.50
Total Balance T.D/GWF amount	-	Rs. 1,55,961.28

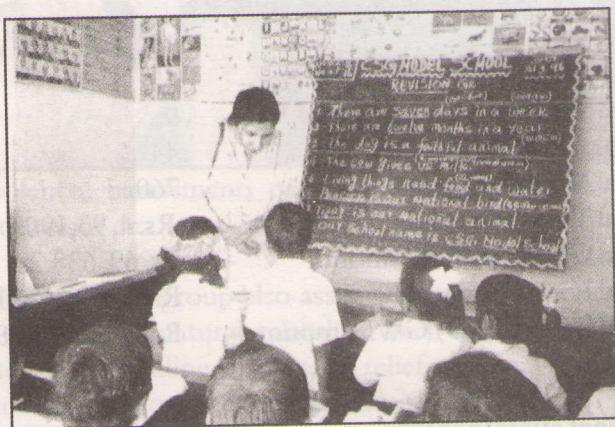
Project sustainability

The group is trained in-group concepts and family budgeting and communication, entrepreneur training, home made items preparation, government welfare schemes and CLF. At present, the CLF are managing the projects and many are involved in entrepreneur training activities. The projects would be handed over to the community in the near future.



THE CSG SCHOOL

The CSG is managing two schools from 1995 onwards set up in female infanticide prone areas VIZ Karuveppampatti and Manickampalayam. The school curriculum strives to provide a quality education while following the government matriculation syllabus. The school intends to introduce curriculum blended with vocational education



The objective of the school is

- To inculcate gender equality amongst children during their critical development years
- To teach religious tolerance and respect for social diversity with in the rich Indian Culture
- To create a model for gender balanced curriculum, which could be later be replicated
- In all the government / panchayat schools.

DETAILS OF THE SCHOOL

Student Strength	:	300
Medium of instruction	:	English
Number of teachers	:	16
Nature of admittance	:	coeducation

The school

1. Provides an opportunity to the children to have good education in academic and sports.
2. Develops emotional and interpersonal abilities and imparts qualities of leadership
3. Develops a sense of loyalty to home, culture and other institutions.
4. Enables the students to identify their strengths, weaknesses and learn accordingly.
5. Enables the student to increase interest in learning and envisages intellectual curiosity.
6. Trains female students to gain confidence in pursuing studies in non-familiar fields to eliminate discrimination in employment opportunities.
7. Introduces new subjects and teaching methodology
8. Conducts periodical tests to monitor the continual performance of the children.
9. Evaluates test papers that are forwarded to the parents enabling discussion about the students' strength and weaknesses.
10. Parent teacher meeting are conducted at regular intervals, building a relationship with the student's family to foster the family environment that promotes their education.
11. Organizes sports and cultural competitions to promote healthy competitive attitude
12. Motivate the girl child to play the games which are considered for boys such as cricket, football etc



TRAINING PROGRAMME

Community services guild realised the importance of having separate department for training the community and staff. Training department is headed by senior training officer and supported by six training officers. The training officers carry out the training programme as per the schedule and age of the group. Periodical evaluation has been carried out to study the impact of the training and

efficiency of the trainers. Staff training programme is carried out to enable the staff to update the knowledge on various social issues and intervention strategies, and training programme are conducted to assist the new entrants to accustomed to CSG culture. The training department entrusted to prepare modules for training besides managing and executing.

Mahalir Thittam training details

Project	SHG Training					A&R Training						
	I	II	III	IV	V	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
Thiruchengode	752	375	286	201	41	857	582	619	436	373	227	15
Namakkal	701	419	281	109		785	716	575	367	264	233	39
Salem	489	259	120	70		506	467	418	211	108	108	
Edapadi	340	130	60	20	1	442	366	279	188	120	72	
Total	2282	1183	747	400	42	2590	2131	1891	1202	865	640	54

SAFE Training Details

Block	Women group	Female youth Group	Male youth Group	Village Development council
Mallasamudhram	221	61	20	63
Thiruchengode	137	22	53	88
Kabilarmalai	46	32	12	12
TOTAL	341	83	53	151

Based on the Project objectives the training manual is prepared on the following topic:

Women group

- Women and Health
- Women and legal rights
- Atrocities against women and ways to overcome it
- Role of women in Community development
- Collective actions for Project Sustainability

Youth group

- Role of Youth in Village development
- Carrier Guidance
- Personality development
- Village action programmes

Female Youth group

- Reproductive health care
- Importance of Education for Girl children
- Carrier Guidance
- Village development activities
- Personality development
- Legal awareness and Women rights



VDC

- Village level local planning
- Village level problem prioritisation
- PRA Technique



NAMAKKAL PROJECT TEAM



SALEM PPI PROJECT TEAM



PPI CUDDALORE PROJECT TEAM



VISION

Blossoming of a harmonious society, where the needs of everyone are met for a decent livelihood, equality of every individual is socially accepted and rights well protected.

MISSION

CSG is a community based non-governmental organisation (NGO), set up to provide knowledge, develop leadership, build skills, and enable access to resources to the constituents and thus promote self-sustained development of the poor and a gender-equal society.

THE STALWART... WHO HAD BOTH

Some do have the vision, some do undertake the mission, but only few reach out to see that both are realised Mr.Venkatachalam Ramanujam, the founder of CSG is still the beacon lightning its way into the darkness of downtrodden. His selfless, untiring strides have now become enlightenment to the world of youth who have joined this crusade to develop a society without any evil.



Central Office Team



Central Office

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