

THE COMMUNITY SERVICES GUILD - ANNUAL REPORT 2004-05

CSG implements the following programmes for the benefit of the downtrodden. Particularly enhancing women and children's capacities by imparting Education, their rights, health, family welfare, poverty alleviation, participation in local bodies and making them participate in all governmental and development schemes.

Programme	Funded by	Area of operation	Major activities
Mahalir Thittam – MATHI II	Tamil Nadu Corporation For Development of Women {Government of Tamilnadu}	20 blocks of Salem and Namakkal districts	Community mobilization with credit linkage for Economic Development and strengthening the higher level Federations
SALWODS IV	ICCO - Netherlands	7 blocks of Namakkal and Salem districts	Gender Empowerment Programme aiming to achieve Community Lead Organisations in the 7 Blocks of intervention.
SAFE – Thiruchengode	CRY	2 blocks of Namakkal district	Infanticide eradication programme with community awareness on their rights on Education, health and Local body governance.
SAFE - Idappadi	CRY	Selected villages in 2 Blocks of Salem district	Community Lead interventions for the upliftment of Daliths and the Unreached poor in the selected villages
Vocational Trainings		Salem, Namakkal & Thiruvallur Dists.	Imparting Training to the Downtrodden youth in Computer, Sewing and Typewriting skills and helping them in Placement
School		Mallasamuthiram and Thiruchengode blocks	Empower girl children through gender balance and quality education
Library	Community	10 villages in 2 blocks of Namakkal district	Promotion of rural literacy and Youth involvement in managing the programme
KALWODS		Kalrayan hills –Salem dist.	Dairy programme for the Tribal Women Developing a Full fledged Training Centre
Child labour remediation programme	CRY & AJWS	Mallasamuthiram by self & as Nodal in Vennanthur & Salem town areas	Rehabilitation of children employed in power loom sector in a convergent approach as Nodal
Tsunami Relief & Rehabilitation Programme	CRY	13 hamlets in the coastal areas of Cuddalore	Relief & Rehabilitation with advocacy for the rights of the community.
Sustained activities	Community	PPI Salem, Cuddalore & pattabiram	Community Lead Organisations

1. MAHALIR THITTAM

CSG implements Mahalir Thittam project in coordination with Tamilnadu Women Development Corporation **Dew** (A Government of Tamil Nadu undertaking). The programme empowers women in rural/urban areas, and develops strong and cohesive self-help groups besides improving access of SHG members to various government schemes and bank credit schemes. Development of member's leadership qualities and self-confidence measures through series of training programmes. Strengthening them in to Federations at various levels.

The programme brought in various changes in the life styles of the members resulting in economic development of SHG members by Inculcated habits of saving, management of common funds for the best benefit to members of SHG & community. CSG trains members in different methods of raising family income by ensuring women to have control over income through better income management and increasing assets.

The programme Increases social awareness and enhanced status of the women in the family and society. Provide opportunities to improve knowledge of members on various areas such as health, family welfare and legal rights, besides promoting functional literacy among group members.

The programme is being successfully implemented in 20 blocks of Salem and Namakkal districts, 5823 group members living in 2395 villages of 476 Panchayats benefits under this programme. CSG extends programme activities now towards the unreached poor women through the Federation to make the economic condition of the poor better.

Project	Block	Panchayat	Village
Salem	5	136	509
Namakkal	6	141	511
Edapadi	4	69	534
Thiruchengode	5	130	841
TOTAL	20	476	2395

CSG Now works towards bringing major transformation in programme management; SHG federations were formed to manage group activities at Panchayat level. Community involvement in attaining the self-sustained level is nearing its goal as Community members are actively engaging themselves in Auditing and accounts management of SHGs; the Community itself now does the Grading of groups. The new and continuously upgraded strategy now intends to enhance community's aptitude to manage and monitor group activities by participatory management strategy called Community Monitoring System-"CMS" which was introduced in the previous year. CSG staffs are regularly trained in accordance with the changing needs of the project field environment.

Savings & Credit Linkage

Project	Savings in Rs.	Credit in Rs
Salem	5,25,28,262	12,71,09,864
Namakkal	9,33,13,124	11,74,58,695
Edapadi	5,58,92,294	12,45,80,090

Thiruchengode	7,07,77,190	22,23,97,300
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The increasing volume of savings and lending gives the members a solidarity and assisted women members to get them relieved from the clutches of moneylenders, continued access to the credit assistance from banks. Now women are able to support and supplement family income through micro trade activities. The members and the community are well aware of various welfare programmes and developmental programmes. SHGs now confront social evils, exploitation and atrocities against women and children in their villages and neighbourhood. SHG carries out campaign against dowry, alcoholism, child labour, bonded labour, gender inequality etc. The trend setting intervention of Taking in the Child Labour Mothers, Poor and the total Dalith population in to SHGs is now being successfully implemented by the community. There are special groups for Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs), People of Trans Gender (TGs), People Living with HIV+ (PLWHIV+). Counselling and credit support along addressing stigma and discrimination in the community towards them is now seriously implemented for the change in the community with slow but steady removal of disparity.

The programme intervention from Government is not clear as the agreement is to be made for the new period starting from April 2005. The government is parallelly thinking of a World Bank assisted Project (SHAKTHI) in 5 Blocks (Our Working) in Namakkal and 2 Blocks in Salem district. The difficulty in implementing is in inter linking the activities with THADCO, DRDA and other agencies that also expect NGO to do all their leg works without monetary commitments.

2. SALWODS IV

"Sustained gender development Through Community Lead Federations"

CSG in collaboration with ICCO implements "Women Empowerment through Savings and Credit Groups" programme since 1997. An external evaluation was carried out at the end of PHASE II to assess the effectiveness of the programmes and to review the strategies adopted for sustaining the results of the activities through community led federations. The results of the evaluation team assessed the strengths, possibilities, opportunities and threats of the implemented project activities in attaining their macro and micro objectives.

CSG implements additional awareness generation programme on capacity building, skill development and finance management. The programme desired to bring social advancement by means of altering the attitudes of the long male dominated communities then asserting social change by sustaining the intervention. The programme is in the thresh hold of becoming a model of sustained Community Lead Organisations in all the intervention areas

The group members actively engaged in savings and credit activity resulted in measurable increase in assets. The member's literacy level is increased through group learning programme; school dropout rate has been reduced among member children. Expenditure related to ceremonials, religious festivals have been minimised, ability to question the superstitious beliefs, proper children care were achieved successfully. Members are actively participating in Panchayat meeting to petitioning their needs, village development activities were regularly carried out solve domestic issues. Family counselling program assists them to access legal remedies for family problems and closely monitors to prevent infanticide. The programme is now managed through federation of SHGs at cluster and block level. The federation carried out the following activities,

- i. Awareness programme on social and cultural ills in the society
- ii. Gender equality activities
- iii. Assistance to secure the basic needs for poor
- iv. Protection of children from exploitations
- v. Guaranteeing compulsory schooling for children below 14
- vi. Promotions of health care to all

As the felt need was that the community leaders still needed consultations and upgrading their skills on Administration and Finance Management the Evaluator's recommendations were considered by the donor ICCO courteously and the programme activities were extended for a further period of three years after a review of Financial Systems of CSG as a whole and even though the programme

activities were speeded up in the month of November only the direction and the march towards sustained federations with Community Lead Structures are on right path and shall be on course within the project period.

The activities shall be well refined and community will start managing programmes and the Organisations on their own, with insistence on awareness programmes on Environmental protection and stimulate collective business activities with new innovative and marketable ventures.

The federations shall start functioning after the consultations are completed

3. SAFE (Save the Female Child) – Thiruchengode Programme

The programme is implemented initially to eliminate female infanticide and foeticide in Infanticide prone areas. The programme is implemented in Tiruchengode, and Mallasamuthiram blocks of Namakkal district in 414 villages in 55 panchayaths. The coverage is now to all the groups in both the blocks amounting to 712 groups. The programme strives to change community attitude towards gender-biased beliefs, attitudes, and values. The programme strengthens rural institutions role in protecting girl child. The programme also strives to improve the quality of education by providing better learning environment. The major activities of SAFE programme are as follows in the Thematic Areas

- Infanticide and feticide
- Children at high risk and children in difficult circumstances
- Caste disparities, wage disparities, political disparities
- Influence the constitutional framework through **PRA**s (Participatory Rural Appraisals) for validation
- Influence local governance mechanism and strengthen local bodies

■ Parent Teacher Association:

CSG reactivated parent teacher associations in all the working areas for monitoring the delivery system in education to the downtrodden, which prevented closure of primary schools in the villages due to poor enrolments. Further, CSG conducted health camps in the schools through primary health centres. CSG conducted Motivation programme for the parents, SHGs, and elected members on managing Primary schools.

■ Inter Face School:

CSG substituted with 12 teachers in single teacher schools to support and strengthen the government schools for quality education. **The implementing and sustaining of this programme is by the community from the next academic year.**

The district education department recognised our intervention of substituting with teachers to strengthen the government schools and preventing from closure

➤ Childcare Services:

CSG realised that need of coordinating various institutions in the villages meant to safe guard the rights and welfare of the children. CSG collected the list of the nutritional centres in the two blocks; presently CSG identified 100 TNIP centres for implementing activities (Mallasamuthiram 46, and Thiruchengode 54). The district and block nutritional officers were contacted and their permission is received.

TNIP centres: CSG in coordination with SHGs in the village supported 25 centres by sponsoring various materials such as plates, mats, tumblers, chairs, cooking vessels etc.

The family counselling activity trains community leaders on counselling pregnant women and other members in need.

Training the Elected local Body Leaders:

The programme sensitised the elected local representatives on the importance of allocating adequate funds for improving education of the villages. The programme further expands the understanding of elected members on various development activities and their rights and roles on development of their villages in coordination with government and other CBOS.

Implementing government schemes and awareness programme in the villages: CSG conducted 35 awareness programmes on Eye care, anaemia, colour blindness, malnutrition, TB prevention, leprosy identification etc.

Training adolescent girls on adolescent education and reproductive health camps: CSG conducted 25 programmes each in Thiruchengode and Mallasamuthiram. The programme assisted young girls to understand their physical and psychological changes.

CSG staff attends regular Primary Health Centres meetings along with the health staff to disseminate information on health care to the villages.

Village Development Council:

The village development council comprises various community-based organisations such as women, male and female youth groups, village elders and decision makers were included in this council to guide and support the council to plan and implement the village development activities. Children are also taken in to the deliberations for their voice.

Children clubs: -

CSG formed 45 children groups. The group members meet once in a month, the staffs teach stories and games for the children during the meeting. The programme intends to teach new values and ideas at young age. The programme provides adequate space for the children to participate and decide about programme activities.

The children were asked to identify their problems related to them in the village, home, and in schools. After that the children's expectations were discussed with the concerned to listen to the children's needs.

Many recreational activities were carried out for them besides that they are attending tuition centres run by the youth club volunteers. The youth and women group donated sports materials for the children club.

4. SAFE (Save the Female Child) – Idappadi & Sankari Programme

The activities of SAFE after the findings of long term negligence in the areas of Idappadi and Sankari Blocks came out with a finding of serious need for intervention in 25 each villages of downtrodden, poorest of the poor communities in both Idappadi and Sankari blocks of the Salem district.

The programme was started in the month of October 2004 with the objectives of Building child rights perspective among the leaders of CBOs (specifically Panchayat level federations of women groups) and to prepare them to retain the rights of children, esp. the SC / ST children in 50 villages of the project intervention and to ensure the total elimination of female infanticide.

Further the project is directed and poised to achieve the following goals

To ensure the healthy life to all school children

Orient the members of SHGs and the PLFs to monitor the sex ratio among their communities

To involve CBOs in all the health care programmes

To increase the access to the government health care system

To sensitise and train the Panchayat leaders from Dalit communities to voice for their rights and to empower them to practice their roles into action to address the caste disparities and early child marriages among their communities

Empower the girls and Dalit children to get access to the continued education

To empower the PTA in the techniques of retention and prevention

Mobilise the entire community based organisations and converge their actions to set to address the child rights, gender perspectives, women rights, caste based disparities, child marriages etc and to evolve strategies to address them

To identify and address the issues related to the gender, caste and other social inequalities by women. Prevent drop out of enrolled children through community based educational support services. To campaign for eradication of child labour, strengthening the CBOs
Empower the children in their participatory skills

The project activities in both the SAFE projects are being driven towards Rights based approach

5. LIBRARY PROGRAMME

The community now manages ten rural libraries in Namakkal district of Tamilnadu; the programme assists the community to retain reading habits besides that it encourages retaining literacy skills of the villagers. Youth of the village and active SHG leaders have taken the responsibility of running the libraries.

The Village library council is formed through representation from the Women group, Youth group members, village schoolteachers, library members, and elected Panchayat members. The library collects the used old books and distributes the same to the rural poor children.

5 Libraries are running well

5 Libraries are partially running with the assistance of the SHG in the village

This programme is not monitored well by us.

6. VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES

CSG with the aim of developing the skills of the rural youth manages vocational training centres to train high school dropout children and village youths in various skills. With the changing trends and utility value for the skill development CSG now emphasises on Computer skill to the Youth of the working areas by providing an opportunity for them to learn computer and assist them in placement.

This programme as planned and implemented shall be handed over to the community wherever community is capacitated.

7. TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Several training programs were offered to develop the skills of the constituents, which included training on entrepreneurship, human rights, Local Body strengthening, etc. So far, CSG completed all the modules in MT programmes and now the Trainings are shifting in terms of consultations in ICCO project and advocacy skills and Children's Rights are imparted through CRY programmes. CSG Staff are contentiously trained in upgrading their skills as to the needs of the changing situations.

Present CSG's all programmes are revolving around the Trainings to the Communities and the Upgrading of skills to the staff as demanded by the changing times.

8. CSG SCHOOLS

CSG manages two primary schools in Namakkal district; the school provides quality education to the female children in the neighbourhood. The students are not only trained to attain literary skills they are also trained in life coping skills. The schools provide wide range of extracurricular activities to the students to choose their desired field. Now the school has the strength of 315 and poised to grow in future to address the need of Schooling to the needed.

The Kumbakonam fire accident tragedy have made lot of changes in the recognition process and there was a committee headed by a retired High court Judge, Called Subramaniam Commission which went in to the reasons for the tragedy have given stringent conditions to be followed for schools

recognitions. As our papers were reverted back to District for clarifications it is found we fulfill all the requirements except the utility of Hollow Bricks and appointing a B.Ed. teacher and we have promised to compile with plastering the walls and appointing a qualified teacher.

(Presently Government have issued notices to all the unrecognised schools to close down the DEO have assured that our school of KVP shall satisfy all the demands after the inspection of Joint inspection from Department in May- WE HAVE NOT REOPENED EXPECTING THE DECISION OF GOVERNMENT IN THIS REGARD)

9. CHILD LABOUR REMEDIATION PROGRAMME

The programme is being implemented in thirty villages of Salem and Namakkal districts.

"To develop a responsible community led remediation programme for children, their families and wider communities for child labour found in the power loom industry producing PRL (Polo Ralph Lauren) products in two blocks and in one City Corporation." By Creating Conducive environment to initiate self- monitoring process in the power loom units to achieve child labour free power loom units in order to advocate for child right to education.

CSG involved various stakeholders in community to ensure right to education.

Community has been facilitated through CBOs(Community based Organisations) to achieve 10 child labour free villages at the end of the grant period and 30 child labour free villages at the end of phase I. and ensure 100% enrolment and retention through community participation and support.

CSG brought partnership between various community stakeholders to evolve complementary monitoring mechanisms in the long run.

CSG initiated an intervention to eliminate child labour employed in power loom sector by mediation and convergence of all the stakeholders. This programme through Training to Families of the Children working in the Loom sector and the community along with the employers, parents, Child Labourers themselves and other concerned persons.

The intervention by us directly is in 10 main villages and 5 feeder villages in a convergent approach with the loom owners, Child labourers, their families and all other stake holders.

38 child labour parents were trained on the importance of Children and their rights and Awareness on SHGs.

61 VLC members were trained in the Concept of Supporting the Child Labour families through local available resources. A Multi Discipline Resource Team guides the general strategic approaches of the programme every 3 months.

10. Tsunami Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - Cuddalore

As the tragedy struck in the form of Giant Waves in the eastern coast of India, our Cuddalore area was hit by TSUNAMI

On 26th December 2004 the giant waves hit Cuddalore coast and rendered thousand s homeless and 764 people including women and children lost their lives, many children were orphaned. 8 areas of PPI Cuddalore were affected, as the PPI is a model in sustained CBO and as our members with whom we were tied up for a very long years since 1982, we were there on the next day and with PPI staff and our staff deputed from other projects started relief work in our areas to the community with Food and supply of Utensils and continuously strived and achieved temporary shelters to the neglected populace in our work area

In January we have found through the need assessments from our community that the need is there for necessitated intervention for receiving the rightful allocations from Government and a Project was formulated with the assistance of CRY for One year with objectives of Relief, Rehabilitation and Community empowerment to regain their coastal rights, activities such as establishing Child Centres in 13 areas of affected coastal community are being carried forward.

The aim of the project is to care for the children in the affected areas through Child centres and Constructing 3 Child Recreation centres and to address the gaps and disparities of the affected community through Campaigns and mobilising them through capacity building trainings to the village leaders and strengthening the present Women's Groups by arranging support facilities such as Credit access.

We have mobilised all the relief (as reported through our earlier reports) by means of materials worth 83 lakhs including the 30 tonnes of Nourishment in Biscuits specially manufactured for the affected children.

The addressing of actual need of bringing our women members from their griever of idling because of their losing every thing in the tsunami was taken as a livelihood support issue and we have requested our partner organisation ICCO to support this with urgency, but unfortunately they have prioritised with Andaman islands where the damage was much heavier and informed their regrets.

But still we were able to mobilise Rs. 3,51,000 from ICCW and the same was disbursed to the 117 community members for engaging themselves in to livelihood support activities such as vending as usual with all their years of learnings.

The other part of Mobilised funds from our Founder and other well wishers was staked up to the tune of Rs.1,27,691/= and the amount was disbursed to 113 community members for start up help along with the other sources of funds which they were ready to pool and start their new ventures.

11. KALWODS

- a) The Training centre construction is nearing completion .The truss work on the terrace is completed. We have earned revenue through external and internal trainings conducted at our centre. The upgrading of the centre will definitely be a source for our income, which ultimately will make us non-dependent of funded programmes.
- b) On Agriculture front, the Mango plants are now ready to yield from next year onwards. The land adjacent to our lands with Silver Oak and few Teak trees was purchased and the land is now being primed for Agricultural activity. We can plant money crops slowly with our resources or we can go for external governmental assistance for making it a successful IG ACTIVITY.
- c) Kalrayan Women's Dairy Programme is running smoothly with Milk procurement in March at 450 litres and the Thrice a month payment to the members at Rs.35, 000/=