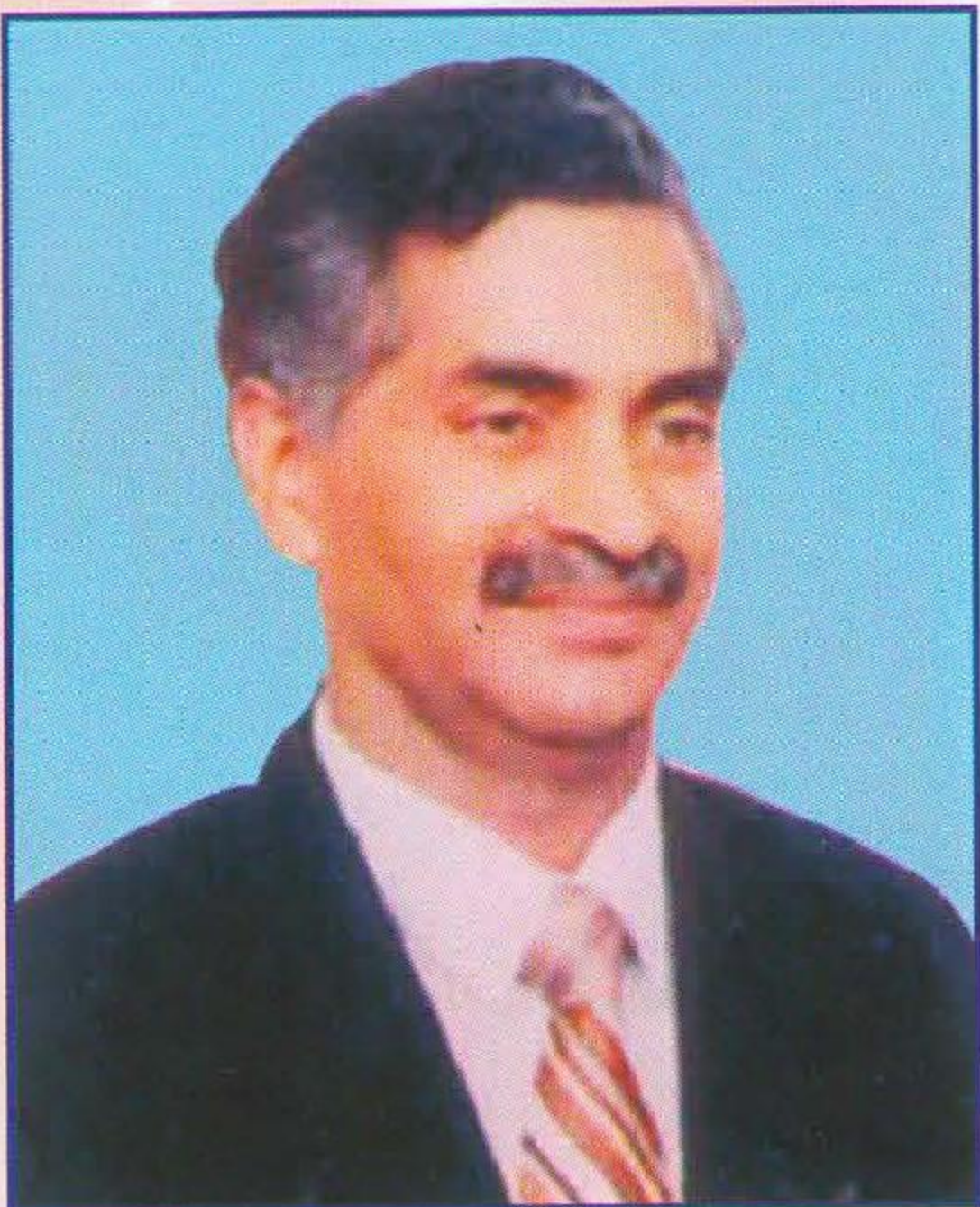


The Community Services Guild

In the Cause of Women and Child Development



Annual Report
2006 - 2007



Mr. R. VENKATACHALAM
Founder & Vice President



Mr. T.V. NARAYANA SAMY
Secretary



Mrs. G.P. RAGINI
President



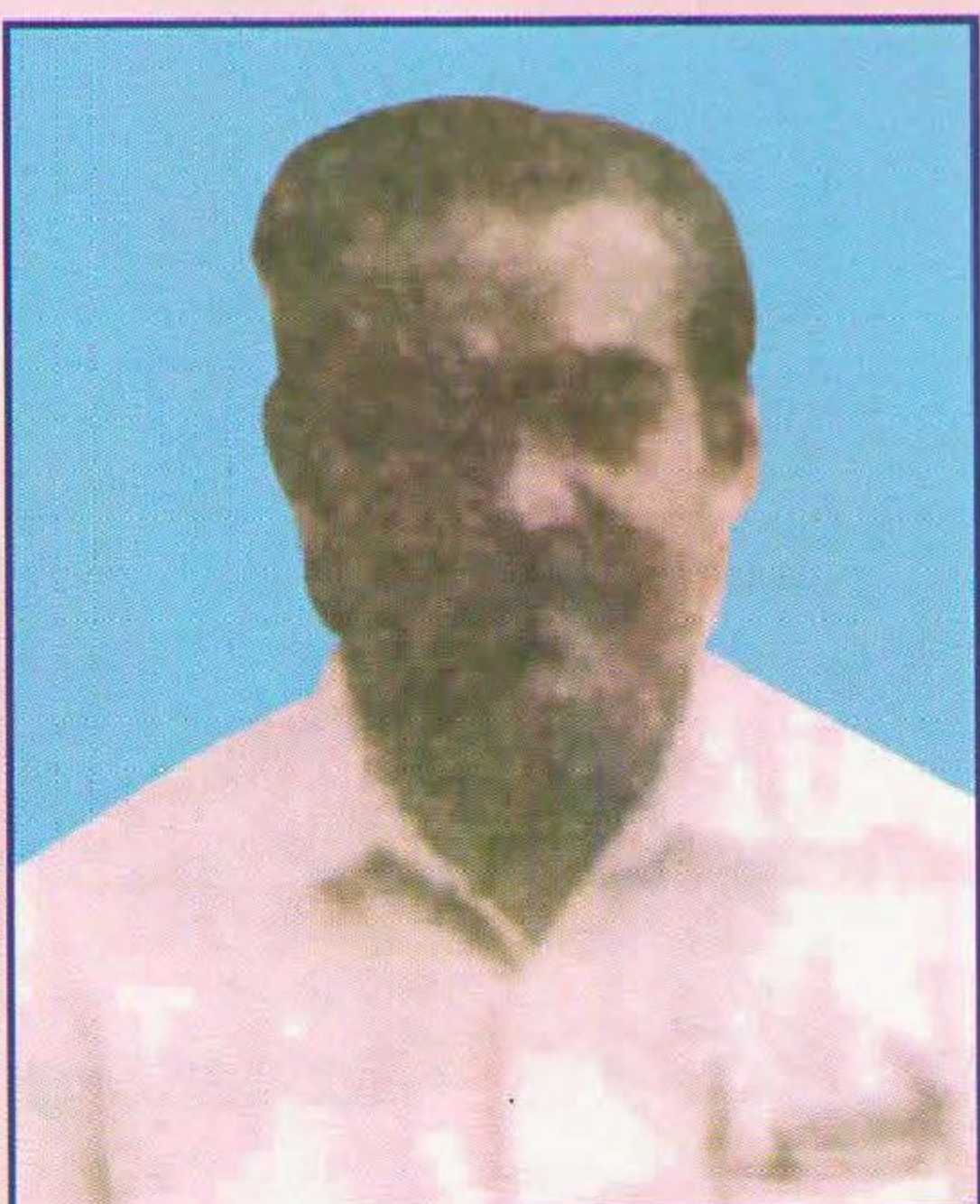
Mr. K. SIVAGAMINATHAN
Treasurer



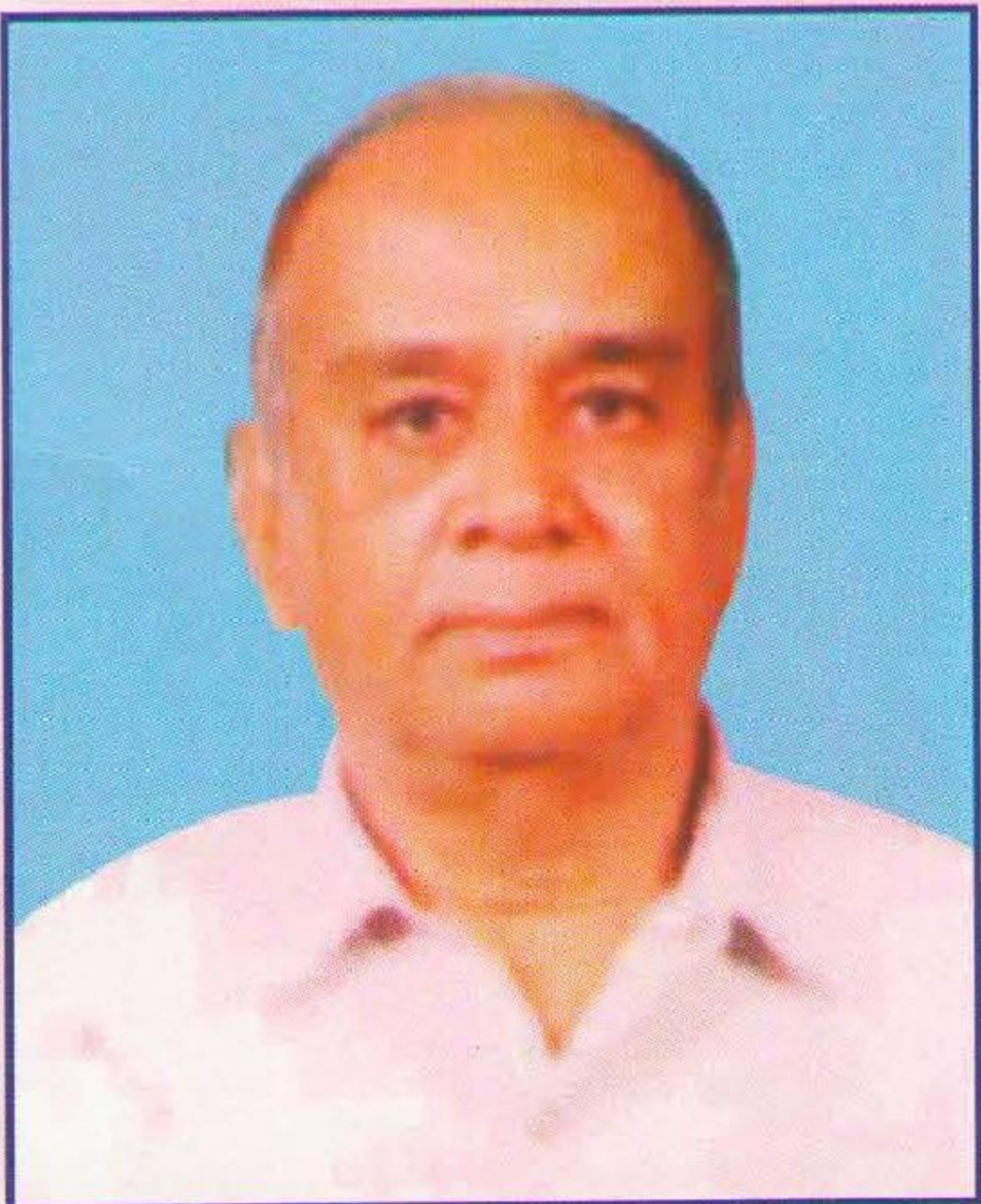
Mrs. HEMA SATHYAMOORTHY
Member



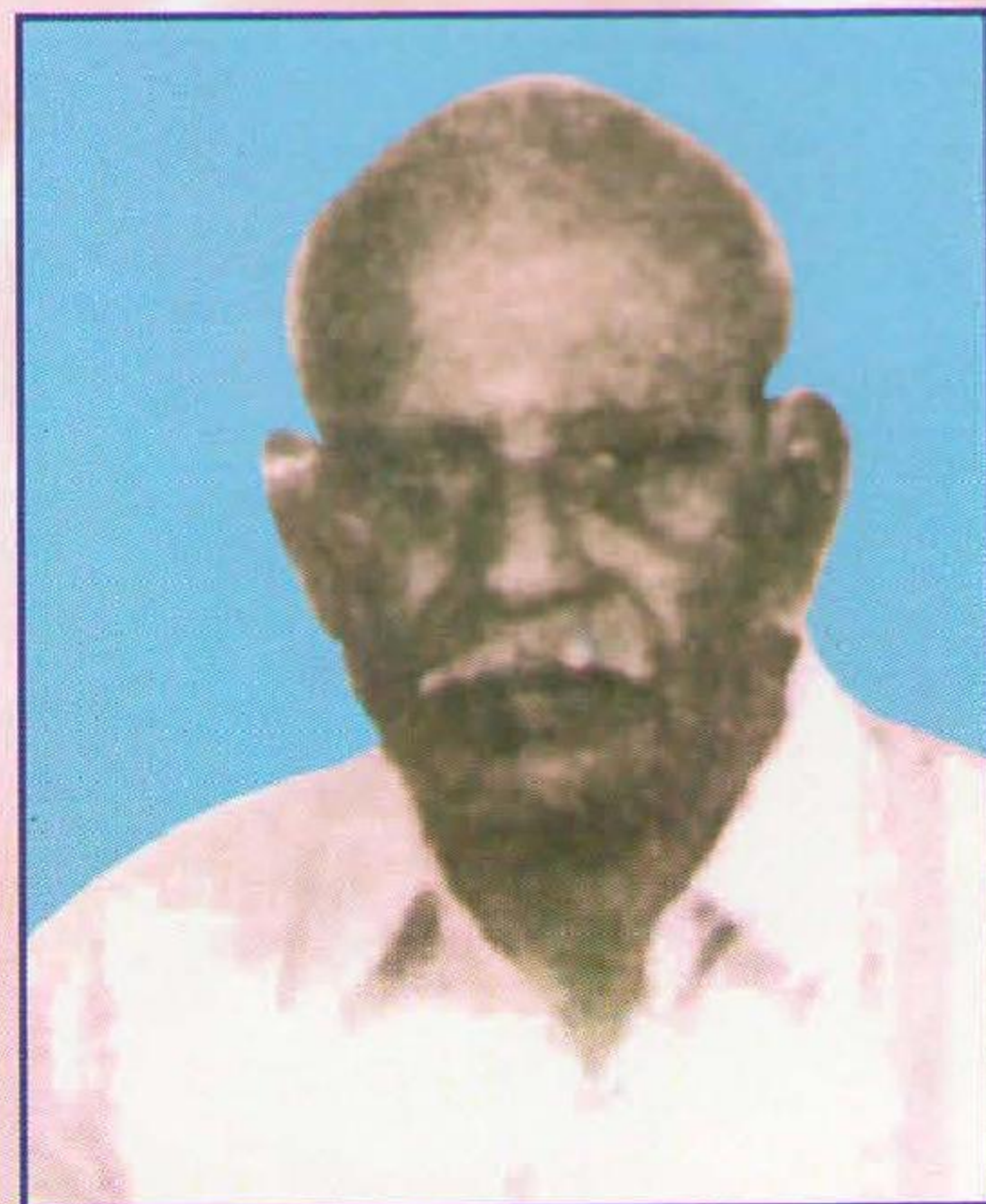
Mrs. GEETHA MOHAN
Member



Dr. J.V. JEYASINGH
Member



Mr. R. RAJAGOPALAN
Member



Dr. T.K. THIRUNAVUKARASU
Member

Preface

To sympathize with the downtrodden and neglected is human, but to envision and work to eliminate their distress is noble.

With this in mind, the Community Services Guild (CSG) came into being on September 8, 1980 with the vision to improve the lives of the poor and neglected communities, focusing specifically on women and children whose position in Indian society was a disgrace to the human race, especially considering that they have long been central to all achievements of the human race.

The march towards CSG's vision for the past 27 years is now a part of our history. As we look back and perceive, we are awestruck with the results that our hard work and efforts have brought forth.

During these years gone by, CSG has earned the gratitude of thousands of its constituents, as well as the communities with whom we have joined hands.

The report here is replete with innovations, efforts, and achievements that span from the empowerment of the neglected tribals of the Kalrayan Hills to the creation of community-based organizations managed by the women folk of Salem, Cuddalore, and Namakkal districts.

The phase in which we now find ourselves has posed us with many challenges, as well as with innovative models that have yielded quantifiable results. I firmly believe that our hard, sustained work for the past 27 years in empowering women in self-management of programs based on their community's needs have long been yielding results, which are visible in the changes not only in their communities, but also in society as a whole. We can look to rural society to precisely pinpoint our achievements in continuously creating CBOs that are either already self-managed, or are now nearing a stage where self-management of their own organization, capacitated through our continuous training, is soon to be a reality.

The efforts of CSG will, as always, be worthy of our vision of sustained development and empowerment of women and children.

I am certain that our efforts will survive the test of time, and flourish with our society's quintessential values.

T.V. Narayanaswamy
Secretary, CSG

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T.V. Narayanaswamy
Secretary, CSG

Introduction



The Community Services Guild (CSG) has been implementing various community development programs in the Salem and Namakkal districts for more than two decades. The strategy adopted and devised by CSG is determined to ensure and improve the quality of life of poor women and children. CSG mobilizes women through self-help groups, and aids them in building their capacities to manage and utilize the resources and facilities available to the maximum.

This report briefly explains and provides an overview of the programs and activities implemented by CSG in its project areas from April 2006 to March 2007. It also provides an overview of the outcomes, and highlights our future plans of the various projects.

CSG PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

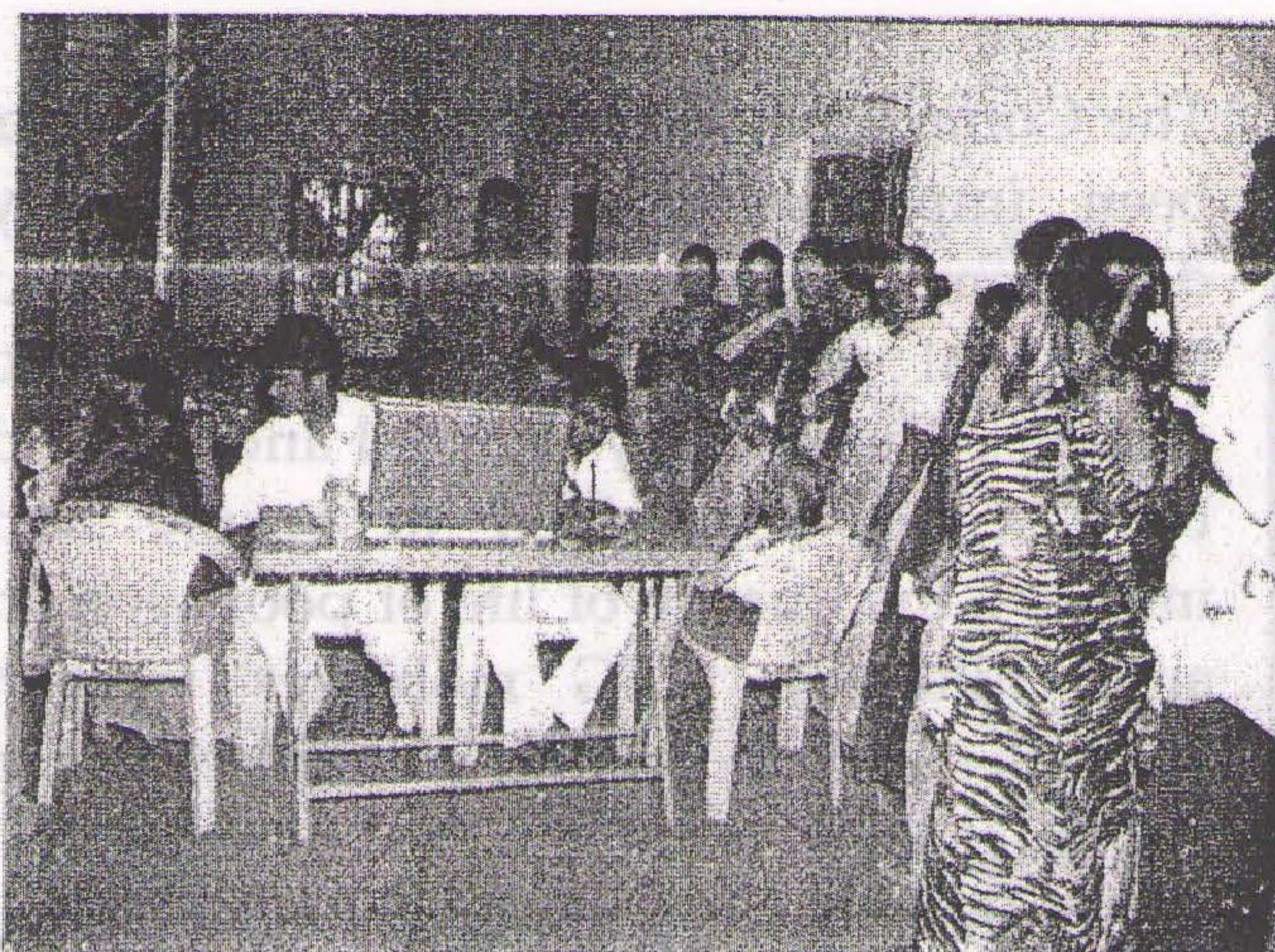
A) Salem Women Development Scheme (SALWODS)

The aim of this project was to achieve sustained gender development through community-led federations. CSG is currently in the final stages of attaining this goal as planned in April 2004 in all five blocks of Namakkal District, and two blocks in Salem District. As a part of the final stages, CSG is providing additional capacity building programs such as skill development in organizational and financial management to the federations. This program is expected to bring the envisaged social changes and sustain the development among federation members. This program is at the threshold of becoming CSG's latest model of sustainable community-run program.

SALWODS - Namakkal

- Blocks Covered: Sendhamangalam, Paramathi, Mohanur, Namagiripettai, and Erumaipatti
- Each of these blocks is made up of three federations, with the exception of Erumaipatti, which has four.
- The 16 federations cover 97 panchayats, 221 villages, 285 Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and have 4772 members.
- The total savings for this program in Namakkal is Rs.21,02,000.

- The following explains the financial status of these federations:



- Total Savings: Rs.2,64,41,027
- Total Subscription: Rs.11,27,445
- Total Interest Income: Rs.5,15,657
- Total Interest Income through Micro-credit: Rs.1,31,57,490
- **Total: Rs.4,12,41,619**

- Nearly 627 women from the lower tiers of development have joined the economic development initiatives from 47 different villages.

- CSG has also organized 24 men's groups that have been active participants in all development activities over the past year. There are currently 382 members in these groups.

- **Health Intervention**

- *Family Counseling:* This program was implemented a little over a decade ago to prevent the incidence of female infanticide and foeticide. Over the last year, 423 pregnant women were identified, and given counseling. As a result of these initiatives, two incidences of female infanticide and four of foeticide were prevented.
- This program also supported and made accessible the services of government health programs such as nutrition centers, and health sub-centers in order to provide adequate reproductive and general health care services to women and children.
- Women were made aware of the importance of registering births and deaths. During the reporting period, 411 births and deaths were registered.
- Two Eye Camps were conducted and received good responses the village people. More than 1000 people underwent eye check-ups. Of these 1000, 180 individuals were diagnosed with various eye disorders. All of them were assisted in getting the necessary treatments.
- HIV screening tests were also conducted in the villages. Through this, 188 individuals were recommended for treatment of HIV/AIDS.
- Handicapped people were given special priority for acquiring welfare assistance. 435 handicapped persons have received welfare assistance.

- **Educational Intervention**

- CSG has worked to set up Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) in those schools that have none, and have strengthened other existing PTAs. They have aided these PTAs in striving to improve the quality of education in the rural schools, and also in working

to prevent dropouts among children, especially girls. CSG has also provided teachers for those schools that lacked manpower.

- As a result, 170 PTAs were strengthened, and 207 villages were announced to be "No Dropout Villages." Enrollment campaigns were conducted and all eligible children were enrolled in schools. Federation members have maintained a good rapport with 188 schools in the target villages.

- Political Intervention

- 145 women contested for various positions in the local body election held in 2006. Of these women, 82 won their campaigns. 17 women were elected as counselors, 12 as presidents, and 55 as ward members in the target villages.

- Economic Intervention

- Until last year, 1,633 women were involved in various income-generation activities.
- This year, 356 members have begun various business activities.
- Out of 285 groups, 60 have received a loan of Rs.1,20,89,000.

- Federation Activities

- Annual auditing for the year 2006-07 was completed for 240 SHGs.
- In order to ensure the effective execution of the various activities, the federations chose to utilize the services of CCOs from CSG, and have employed 2 in each block. The federations are currently meeting the necessary annual administrative expenses of Rs.2,13,600.



- 1221 members have taken part in the group consultation meetings held during this reporting period, and 619 members participated in the federation consultation meeting.
- Out of 4772 members, 3453 members took part in the decision-making process.
- Grading was completed for 285 groups. Of these, 167 have been ranked with an "A" grade.
- 1576 individual members have constructed separate toilets for the use of their family's.
- Out of 435 handicapped members, 314 have received welfare assistance.
- 2896 women have purchased property in their name, and 347 members are engaged in social service activities.

SALWODS - Salem

- Blocks Covered: Ayothiapattinam, and Panamaratthupatti.
- These two blocks cover 41 panchayats, 83 villages, 114 SHGs, and have 2044 members.
- Financial status of these federations:



- Total Savings: Rs.2,32,41,837
- Total Subscription: Rs.2, 74,878
- Total Interest Income: Rs.3, 23,850
- Total Interest Income through Micro-credit: Rs.1,23, 49,051
- **Total: Rs.3, 61, 89,616**

- CSG has formed 29 men's groups in 19 villages with 556 members.
- These federations admitted an additional 46 women in the groups.
- Health Intervention

were held, and 488 pregnant women (of whom, 92 were considered high risk) were given counseling.

- Nine health camps were organized, and 1574 members underwent various tests.
- 30 individuals were diagnosed with HIV in 21 villages, and were assisted in getting appropriate treatment.
- Further, 15 handicapped persons have received various welfare assistance.

- Educational Intervention

- Of the 69 schools in the 83 target villages, 43 have functioning PTAs. These PTAs were strengthened by CSG.
- Out of these 83 villages, 77 were announced to be "No dropout Villages."

- Political Intervention

- 30 of the 104 women members who contested in the local body election won their posts. Of these women, 2 were elected as counselors, 2 as presidents, and 26 as ward members.

- Economic Intervention

- Until last year, 1217 members were engaged in various business activities.
- This year, 241 members have begun different income-generation activities.
- All 114 groups have received loans from the banks; the total amount received is Rs.3,97,65,400.

- **Federation Activities**

- 85 out of 114 groups have completed their annual audit.
- 426 members participated in the group consultation meetings, and 331 members in the federation consultation meeting.
- Out of 2044 women members, 1388 took part in the decision-making process.
- Grading was completed for 80 groups; among these 44 were ranked with an "A" grade.
- Out of 2044 members, 1855 women have purchased property in their name.
- Out of 1324 members, 1145 have constructed individual toilets.
- 310 members are involved in various social service activities.
- Both federations are meeting their administrative expenses of Rs.40,624 to carry out their routine activities.

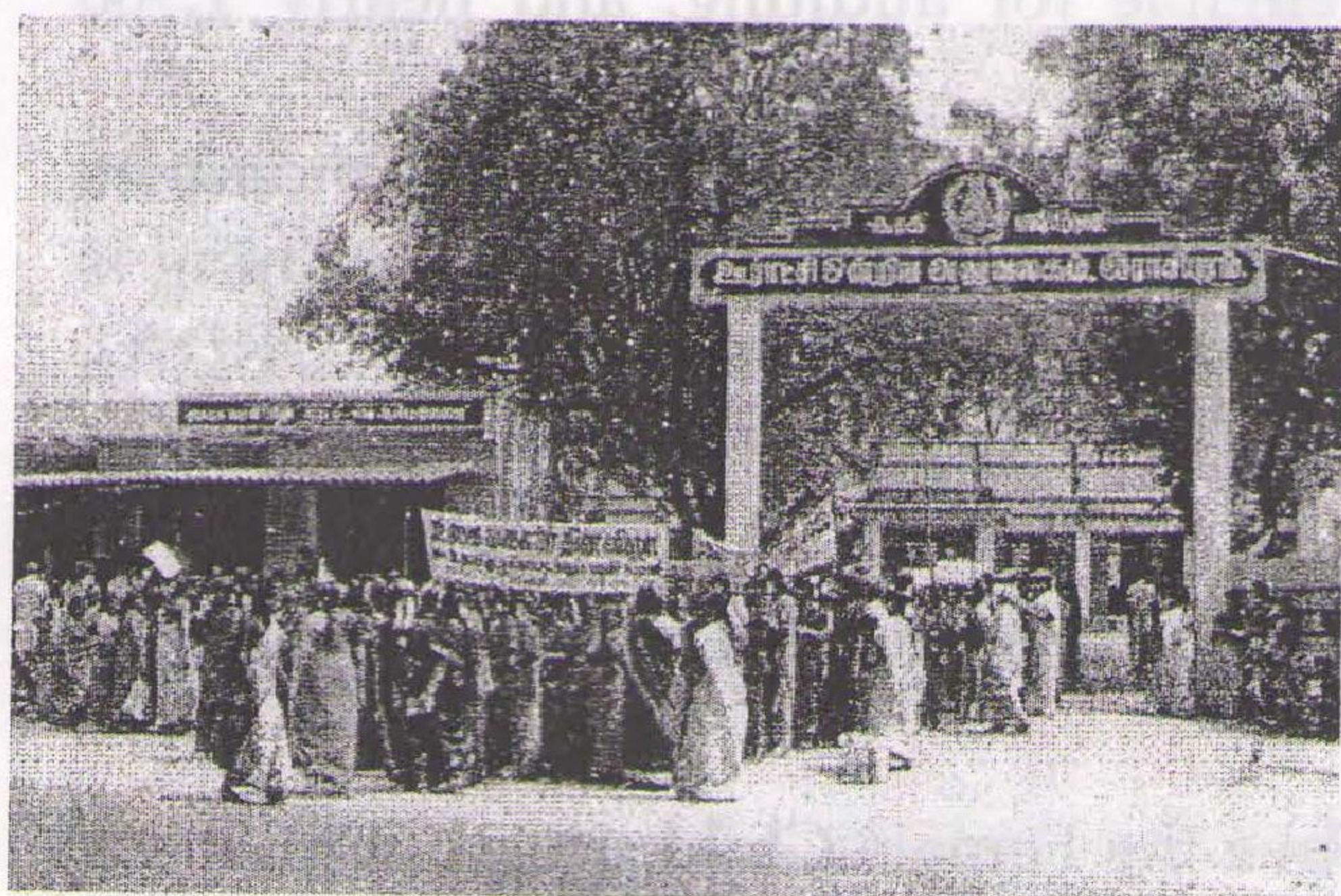
B) Mahalir Thittam (MATHI)

The ultimate objective of this project is to work to move women from poverty to self-reliance and empowerment in order to benefit society at two levels. The first level would bring direct benefits to individual women and women's groups, and the second would benefit their families and the community as a whole.

The Community Services Guild has been implementing Mahalir Thittam programs since 1998 in partnership with the Tamil Nadu Corporation for the Development of Women (DeW). MATHI aims for the economic development of women by providing them with financial support from nationalized banks. CSG's project area for MATHI has been divided into three zones, namely, Salem, Namakkal, and Thiruchengodu.

Salem Zone

- **Blocks Covered:** Ayothiapattinam, Panamarattupatti, Pethanaickenpalayam, Vazhappadi, Salem, Edappadi, and Sankakiri.



- In these seven blocks, CSG is operating in 159 panchayats, 945 villages, and has thus far formed 2,479 SGHs with 44,059 members.
- Out of these 2,479 groups, 492 belong to the scheduled caste.
- CSG has assisted 1,650 groups in obtaining loans amounting to Rs.11,16,44,000.
- Auditing for the 2006-07 period has been completed for 1,351 groups.
- Group savings total Rs.11,91,12,184.

- Grading has been completed for 1,755 out of 2,479 groups.
- Of these 1,755 groups, 1,157 have received an "A" grade, 192 a "B" grade, 131 a "C" grade, and 157 a "D" grade.
- Efforts are being taken by the staff and the groups to improve their grades.
- Panchayat-level training was given to 85 groups, and skill training arranged for 82 groups.
- Both SHG and Awareness & Readiness (A&R) training were given to 2,099 groups. 4,327 members also underwent Economic Development Program (EDP) training.

Namakkal Zone

- Blocks Covered: Paramatthi, Mohanur, Erumapatti, Namagiripettai, Puduchattram, and Sendamangalam.
- CSG is working in 6 blocks, consisting of 131 panchayats, and 647 villages.
- So far, CSG has formed 2,085 SHGs with 37,294 members.
- Among these groups, 644 belong to the scheduled caste, and 47 belong to scheduled tribes.
- **Total funds amount to Rs.19, 33, 80,573.**
- Out of the 2,085 groups, 1,900 have so far received a loan amount of Rs.34,10,17,105.
- 1,309 groups have completed their yearly audit.

Thiruchengodu Zone

- Blocks Covered: Thiruchengodu, Mallasamudram, Rasipuram, Kabilar Malai, Ellachipalayam, Metcheri, and Nangavalli.
- In these seven blocks, CSG covers 167 panchayats, 1,145 villages, and has formed 2,714 SHGs with 46,372 members. Of these 2,714 SHGs, 823 belong to the scheduled caste.
- **Total group saving is Rs.14,05,39,143, and the total loan amount is Rs.11,87,86,900.**
- Out of the 2,174 groups, around 1,721 are eligible for auditing, and nearly 1,966 groups have been graded.
- Out of the 2,714 groups, 2,663 have completed the SHG training, and 5,764 members have undergone the EDP training arranged by Mahalir Thittam. The EDP training is imparted by Mahalir Thittam and the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Tamilnadu.

C) Save the Female Child (SAFE) – Edappadi & Thiruchengodu

Since 1997, CSG has been implementing the Save the Female Child program in order to eliminate female infanticide and foeticide. During the reporting period, this program was run by CSG with support from CRY (Child Rights & You).

- CSG has been implementing this program in 53 panchayats consisting of 511 villages. The project was recently extended to include the Sankagiri and Edappadi blocks in 2005.
- During the reporting period, 92 male youth groups, 74 female youth groups, 90 children's groups, and 55 social groups were formed by the CSG team.
- 92 Dalit activists were trained, and processions were conducted in different places in order to raise awareness of the need for education, and to garner support for children's enrollment in schools.
- 61 child labourers were re-enrolled in the local schools.
- With the effective participation of the members, election manifestos highlighting the village issues were prepared and given to contestants from different parties.
- Dalit activists were made aware of the available wasteland areas in the target villages.
- Dalit women members were encouraged to contest in the panchayat election, and 11 women contested for the post of panchayat president during the local body elections held in 2006.
- Issues concerning the villages were identified.
- The following training programs were conducted under the SAFE project:
 - 1,188 community-based organization (CBO) members attended the training on Women and Child Rights issues.



- 93 Child Rights Convention (CRC) leaders attended the leadership training.
 - 23 Dalit representatives attended the Panchayat Raj training.
 - 698 panchayat-level federation (PLF) members were trained.
 - Youth group leaders attended training on lobbying skills.
 - 26 government teachers attended the training on enrollment retention issues, and free education for Dalit children.
 - 12 CSG employees attended Training-of-Trainers (TOT) training on CBOs.
 - 15 members were taken to CIDA (an NGO in Dindigul) for an exposure visit.
- The following are some of the major works done in the SAFE villages :
 - Held discussions on child labour issues.
 - Requested for the opening of primary schools in the villages where schools were not available, and strengthened the middle schools.
 - Strengthened the village education committees and the Parent Teacher Associations.
 - Requested for the establishment of Anganwadi centers in the villages where such centers were not available.
 - Protected destitute children.
 - Identified activists in Dalit villages.
 - Prepared Dalit leaders to contest in the panchayat election, and helped Dalit women become secretaries in the PLF.
 - Collected the panchayat-wise election demands.

- Secured government loans and other welfare programs for Dalit people.
- Identified common lands.
- Organized awareness camps for labourers on Minimum Wages Act.
- Extended family counseling services to all villages.
- Identified local resources.
- Conducted panchayat meetings.
- Achievements of the SAFE project:
 - Solved drinking water problem with the help of CBOs.
 - Arranged water for the primary health center (PHC) and primary schools.
 - SHG arranged for a Tuition Center at Vaiyappamalai for failed and dropout students.
 - Arranged for Balwadi center, and undertook afforestation program.
 - Arranged fencing and constructed toilet facility for school.
 - Identified 54 HIV patients through the HIV awareness camp organized by PHC.
 - AIDS awareness processions were conducted in 28 villages.
 - Arranged for nursing training for 2 girls.

D) Sangama Sangam

Like a few other professional NGOs, CSG realized the importance of gradually moving from community development to empowerment. This process of empowerment enables the constituents to learn, understand, organize, and address their own issues and needs. This process also allows them to eventually take over and self-manage the programs.

The empowerment process requires a sustained effort on the part of CSG in identifying the needs of the constituents, in helping find resources, and in developing a competent and qualified team of professionals, who in turn, help prepare the constituents for self-management.

CSG was the first NGO in the nation to successfully implement and enable the sustainability of this empowerment program.



Groups that had been under CSG's programs for nearly a decade used the training received from CSG to form new organizations with the name *Pengal Pannokku Iyakkam* or PPI (Cuddalore, Salem, and more recently, Pattabiram). The PPIs (each of which are separate organizations), once formed, remained directly under CSG's fold for a period ranging from three to five years, during which time, the empowerment process is

expected to firmly take its root. Now, these PPIs are not only able to manage their programs and activities, but have also grown more extensive! These PPIs are standing examples of the sustainability of empowerment.

Following the same example, CSG has initiated a similar process with those groups funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Mahalir Thittam under the name of *Sangama Sangam*. This was the same empowerment idea with which the Tamil Nadu Government initially began this program under the IFAD scheme. The formation of the Sangama Sangams is merely the first step in the process of empowerment of these women's groups. There is still a long way to go before complete empowerment can be achieved and the newly-formed organizations become ready to take over and manage their own programs. Until such a time as this comes to pass, CSG will continue to work with these groups in order to help develop and sustain the empowerment process that has just begun.

Finally, even after CSG transfers the management of these programs to the Sangama Sangams (which is expected to take about three more years), CSG will continue to provide support, as and when required, to these new organizations in the same way as it was done and still does for the PPIs.

The following table shows the status of federations in the Salem, Namakkal, & Thiruchengodu zones :

S.NO	Name of the Zone	No.Of. SS	SS groups	%	Total Savings
1	Salem	5	697	27%	3961100
2	Namakkal	6	535	24%	3490500
3	T.Gode	5	572	20%	2704000
TOTAL		16	1804	24%	10155600







Pengal Pannokku Iyakkam - Salem



Pengal Pannokku Iyakkam - Cuddalore



Pattabiram Siruthozhil Puriyum Pengal Podhu Nala Sangam



E) CSG Vocational Training Centers (Operational since 1997)

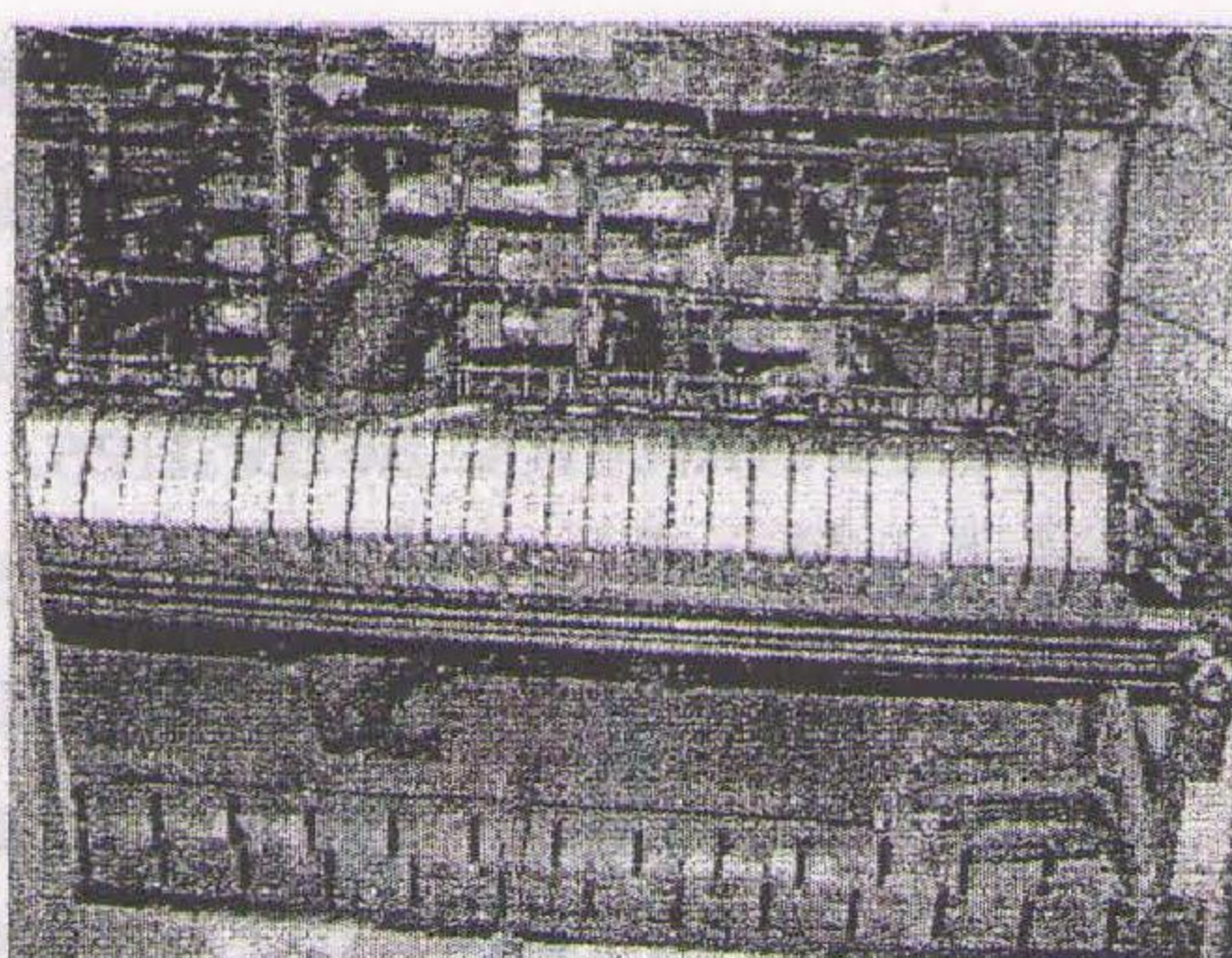
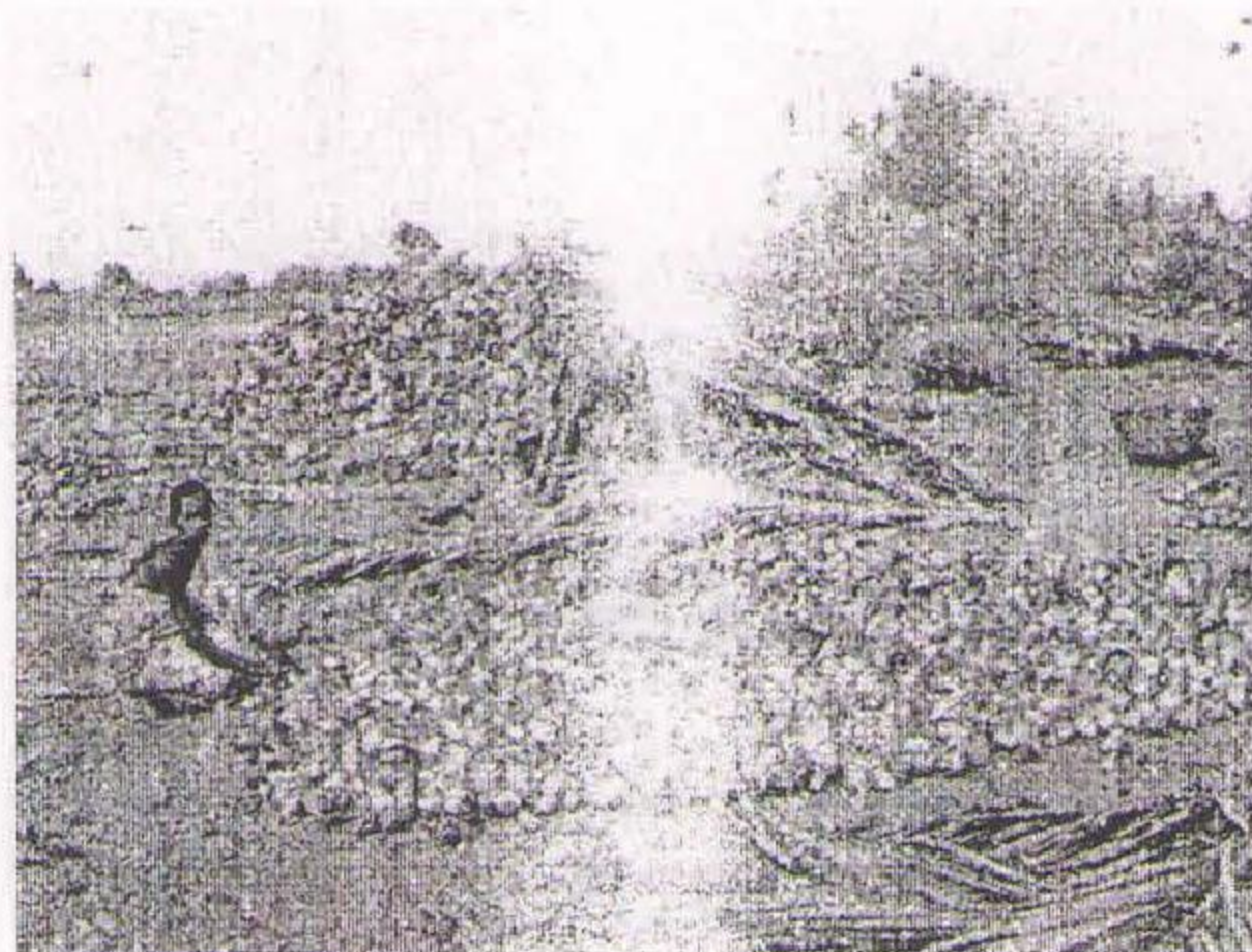


- Thiruchengodu:
 - Typewriting Centre: 17 girls have completed this course during this reporting year.
 - Tailoring Centre: 31 students have completed the tailoring course this year. Since its inception, 374 students have completed the tailoring course.
- Jedarpalayam:
 - Tailoring Centre: 29 students have completed the course during the reporting year.
- Pandamangalam:
 - Typewriting Centre: 26 students have completed the course. Total number of students since the inception of this centre is 684.
- Mallasamudram:
 - Computer Centre: 31 students have completed computer training.
 - Typewriting Centre: 24 students have completed their course.
 - Tailoring Centre: 30 students have completed this training.
- So far, in all the vocational training centers (VTCs):
 - 2,066 students have received training in tailoring.
 - 1,274 students have received typewriting training.
 - 249 students received computer training.
 - On the whole, 3,589 students have thus far benefited from the CSG VTCs.

F) Sales & Marketing

CSG, in collaboration with the KSR Educational Institution in Thiruchengodu, has taken steps to aid its constituents in learning to market and sell those products and services that they put forth and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on December 2, 2006. KSR has deputed their MBA students to our SHGs to provide free consultancy service to improve and better market their economic activities. The SHGs organized an Exhibition-cum-Sales event at the KSR Ladies Hostel on December 3, 2006. Products valued at a total of Rs.31,000 were sold within a three-hour span. Some of the fastest moving products were found to be jams, dates, candles, soaps, various cleaning products, Coir mats, phenyl bottles, etc. Several other members are involved in various kinds of other income-generating activities in our project areas that also require training in sales and marketing. Some of these activities include production of jute and wire bags, cloth purses, soft toys, bakery items and other eatables, milk products, masala

powders, herbal and medicinal powders, glass paintings, handicraft items, etc. Some also run egg businesses, as well as plumbing and driving services.



G) HIV Awareness Program

Namakkal Zone

- In collaboration with the T.T. Ranganathan Clinical Research Institute (TTRCRI), 5,000 people were given training on HIV awareness in Sendamangalam and Pudukhattram during the last 2 years.
- CSG, in collaboration with TTK Products, conducted an outreach program in Namakkal through the Sendamangalam Sangama Sangam.

Thiruchengodu Zone

- 791 SHG members were given awareness training on HIV.

Salem Zone

- CSG was requested to work in the Sankagiri block by the YWCA, which was functioning as the nodal agency for APAC/USAID. The YWCA allocated a total of 20 blocks to various NGOs in the Salem District.
- The project period was from September 2006 to February 2007, and 40 volunteers were selected from 20 villages in order to implement the program.
- Selected volunteers were given the necessary training on HIV/AIDS, and training for the Street Theatre was given to 5 people.
- Awareness about HIV/AIDS was raised in the villages through awareness songs, and many other methods.
- SHG members were also given training on HIV and were tasked to educate and prepare the people from 20 villages to undergo the screening test.
- Peer education training was conducted for volunteers on how to do house visits, and how to identify the HIV victims and maintain confidentiality.



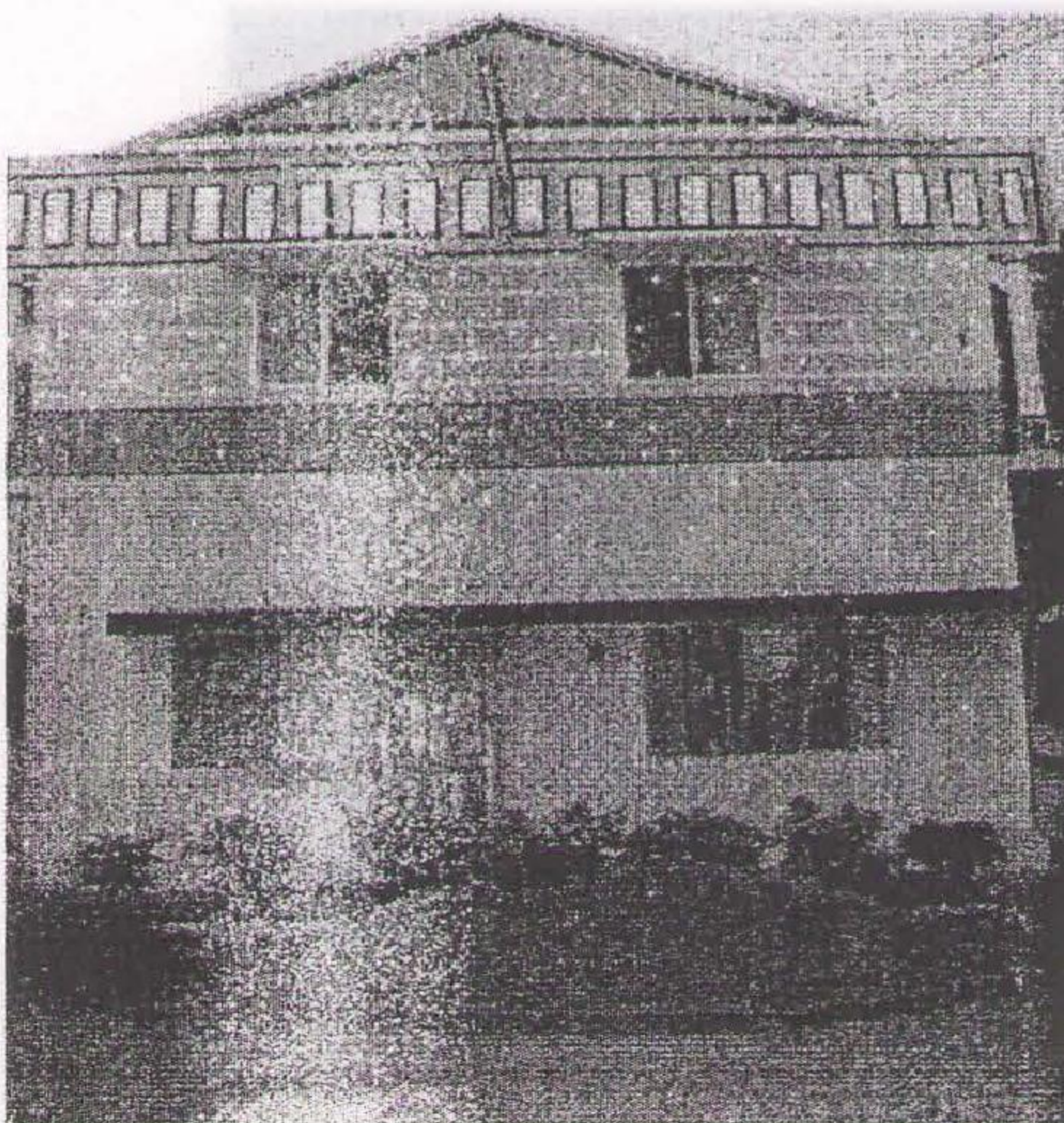
- Volunteers were given sufficient training about condoms, its usage and benefits, etc.
- In order to reach the masses more effectively, the staff of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) were given training on identifying HIV infected children and the modalities of follow-up action.
- In agreement with the age old saying that prevention is better than cure, village health workers were trained on the importance of prevention of HIV in the case of pregnant women. Posters on HIV were displayed in prominent places in order to increase awareness, and to offer better access to information about this deadly disease.
- World AIDS Day was celebrated in Salem with the district collector, school children, college students, SHG members, and network partners taking part. Within the short span of six months, 398 people were tested five times through the Mobile Unit.

Village Program

A one day program was conducted with processions and games. Posters depicting the negative effects and consequences of the disease were displayed on the walls of each house. Right Ranga clubs were formed, and awareness meetings were conducted. Prizes were given for cultural programs (aimed at raising HIV awareness) conducted by Mr. Suruli Mohan, a television actor, in 8 villages. This approach has greatly aided in raising awareness in over 2,500 people, and the district collector presented a Certificate of Merit to CSG in appreciation of our effectively implementing the HIV Awareness Program in Sankagiri block.

H) Kalrayan Hills Programs

- **CSG Dairy Scheme:** This scheme began in 1985 in Kalrayan Hills and has successfully functioned for the past 22 years. Close to 180 scheduled caste and scheduled tribe families benefit from this scheme that collects nearly 800 liters of milk everyday from these tribal people. This milk is then sent to the Salem dairy unit. This dairy scheme is now being operated by a co-operative society (Karumandhurai Pazhangudi Mahalir Pal Urpathiyalar Sangam) under the auspices of CSG. Society members earn around Rs.3,00,000 per month.

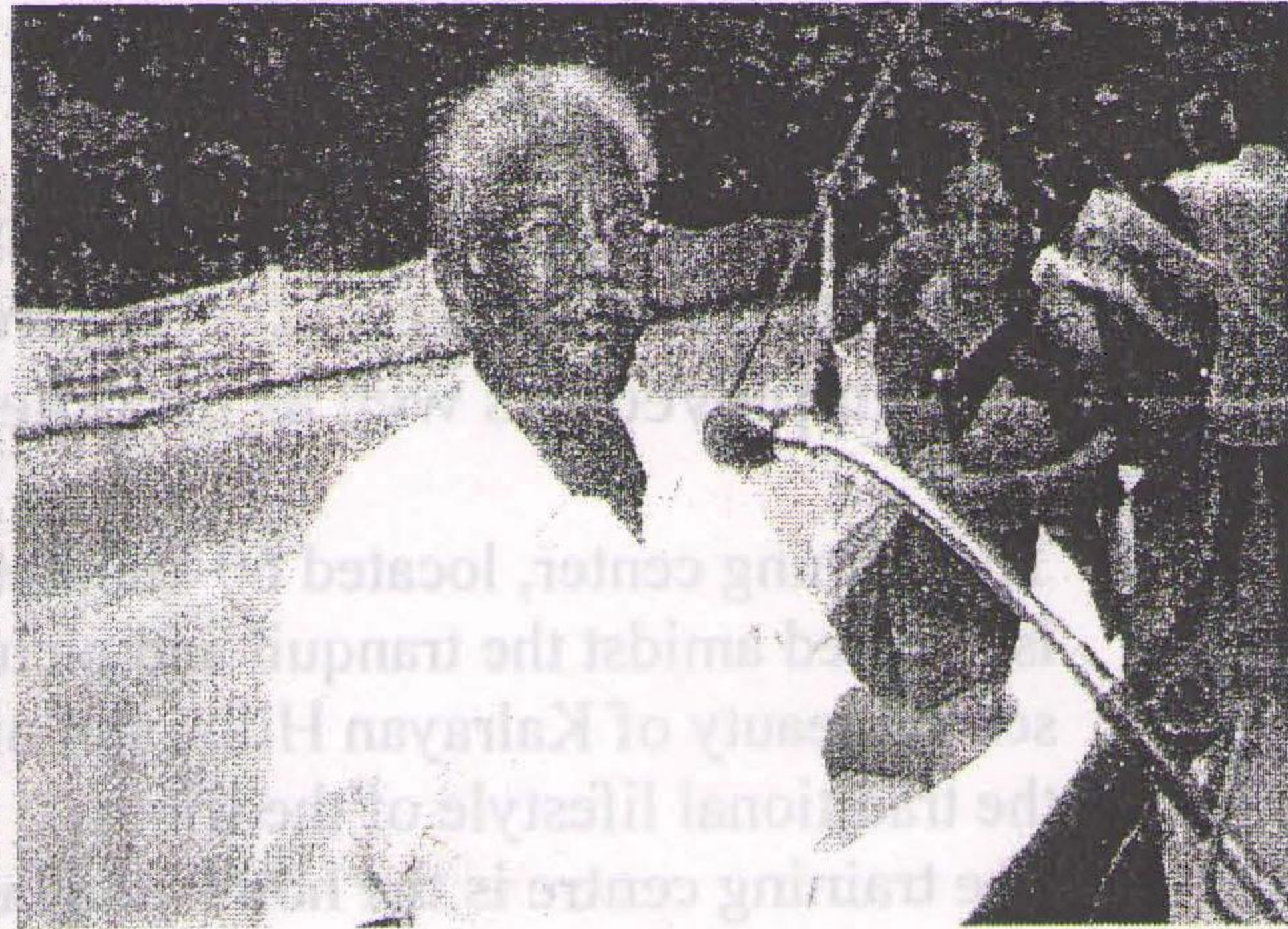
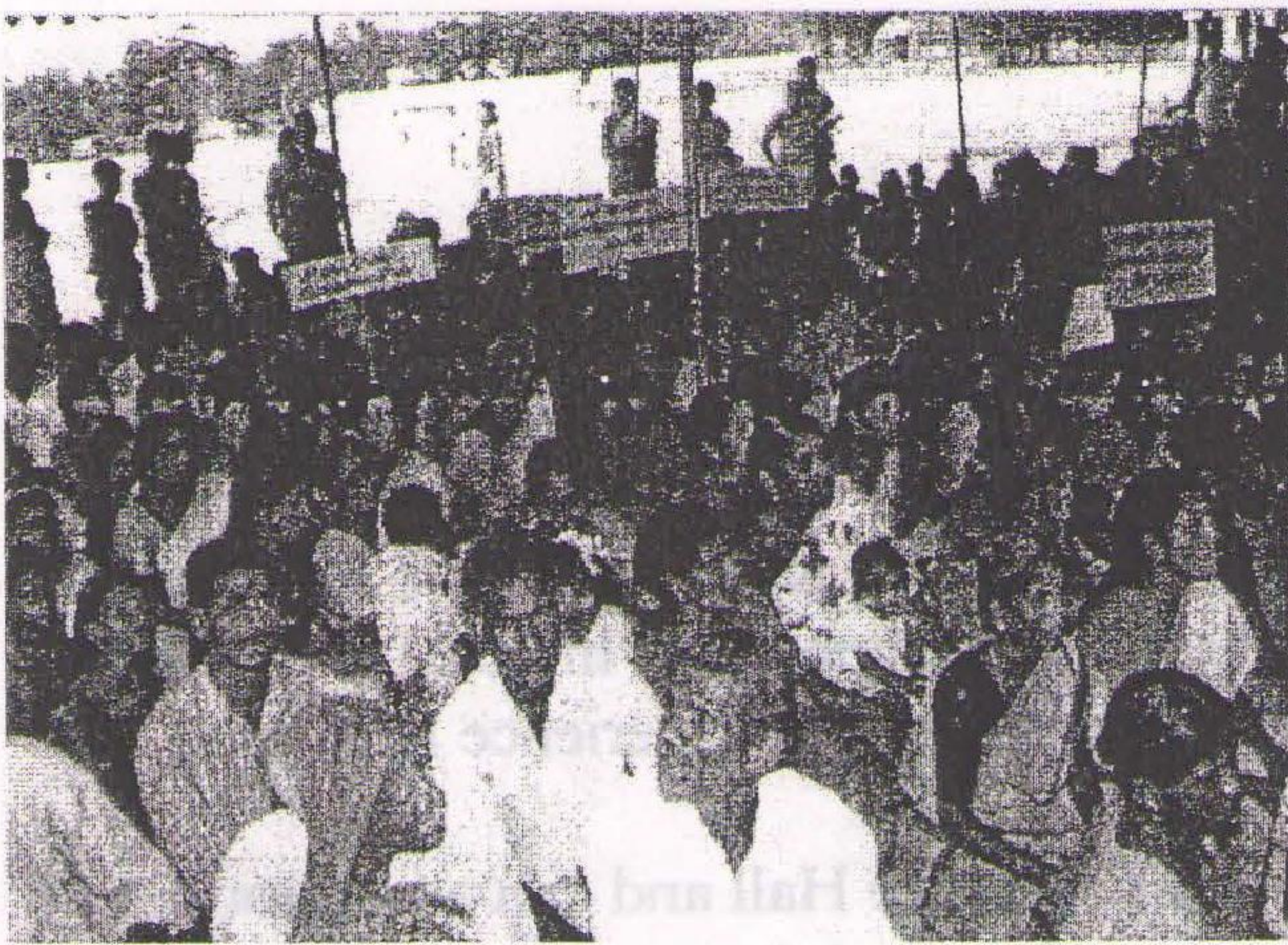


CSG Training Centre

- **CSG Training Center:** This center was established over a decade ago in Karumandhurai, and has been conducting frequent and in-depth training programs for CSG's own employees, as well as for other governmental and non-governmental organizations.
 - The training center, located 60 kilometers from Salem, at an altitude of 3000 feet, is situated amidst the tranquil and picturesque landscape of the hitherto unraveled scenic beauty of Kalrayan Hills, and offers a great way to experience first-hand, the traditional lifestyle of the tribes.
 - The training centre is the home to a large Conference Hall and can accommodate up to a hundred people. There is also an outdoor training area, as well as guest rooms and dormitory facilities for overnight stays for participants. Pick-up and drop-off facilities from the Salem Bus terminus and railway station are also available upon request.
 - Food at the training centre is prepared with fresh organic vegetables and fruits bought locally, or in neighboring towns. CSG offers not only the training facilities, but also trainings for social development and skill building for NGOs and their constituents.
- CSG also owns some agricultural land, which provides the organization with some earnings that are used to meet parts of the recurring organizational expenditure.

I) CSG & Other NGOs

- The **Tamil Nadu Alliance for Right to Education and Equity (TAFRE)** is a state-level branch of the National Alliance for Right to Education and Equity (NAFRE). TAFRE has 150 organizations as members in its fold, including NGOs, women and Dalit movements, trade unions, consumer protection networks, village panchayat president associations, student organizations, unorganized labour associations, teachers associations, etc. CSG, the regional TAFRE partner for the western region of Tamil Nadu, carries out the TAFRE programs in the Salem and Namakkal districts throughout the year.
- The **Campaign for Equity & Equality in Tsunami Rehabilitation (CEETR)** has been engaged in mobilizing and organizing communities affected by the 2004 tsunami. On the ground, the campaign is pressuring the state to live up to its accountability and responsibility for providing sustainable livelihood resources, as well as for the creation of sufficient employment opportunities in the tsunami-affected areas. CSG, in partnership with CEETR, is working towards achieving basic human rights through affirmative action.



Insisting on the coastal community's rights to a good livelihood and rehabilitation, CEETR organized a walking rally starting in Kanyakumari, and continuing on to Chennai along the coastal areas. The coastal community's, especially those in the tsunami-affected areas, offered them shelter, refreshments, and food as the rally progressed. The rally began on March 1, 2006, and ended in Chennai on May 1, 2006. The team covered nearly 12 districts along the coast, and nearly 150 to 500 people took part in the procession in each village.

As the rally went through Cuddalore, CSG joined them and offered them refreshments and support. Our tsunami project in Cuddalore ensured that there was a good response and support for the participants. Nearly 200 people took part in the public meeting held in Cuddalore.

- The Tamil Nadu Forum for Crèche and Childcare Services (TN-FORCES) is an apolitical network of organizations set up to advocate the cause of young children in the lowest tiers of society. Its members include NGOs, child welfare



organizations, educational institutions, women's organizations, trade unions, professional associations, and research institutions. CSG has been an active member of this network, attend all meetings regularly. Moreover, CSG is also a core committee member of TN-FORCES. As a member, CSG coordinates with TN-FORCES in

implementing its program in the operational areas. CSG, in collaboration with TN-FORCES, organized a preparatory meeting at the district level in Salem in order to observe, celebrate, and highlight the importance of Anganwadi Day on November 21, 2006.

J) CSG Silver Jubilee

CSG celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 2005. However, due to unavoidable circumstances, we were forced to postpone the actual celebration until August 2006.

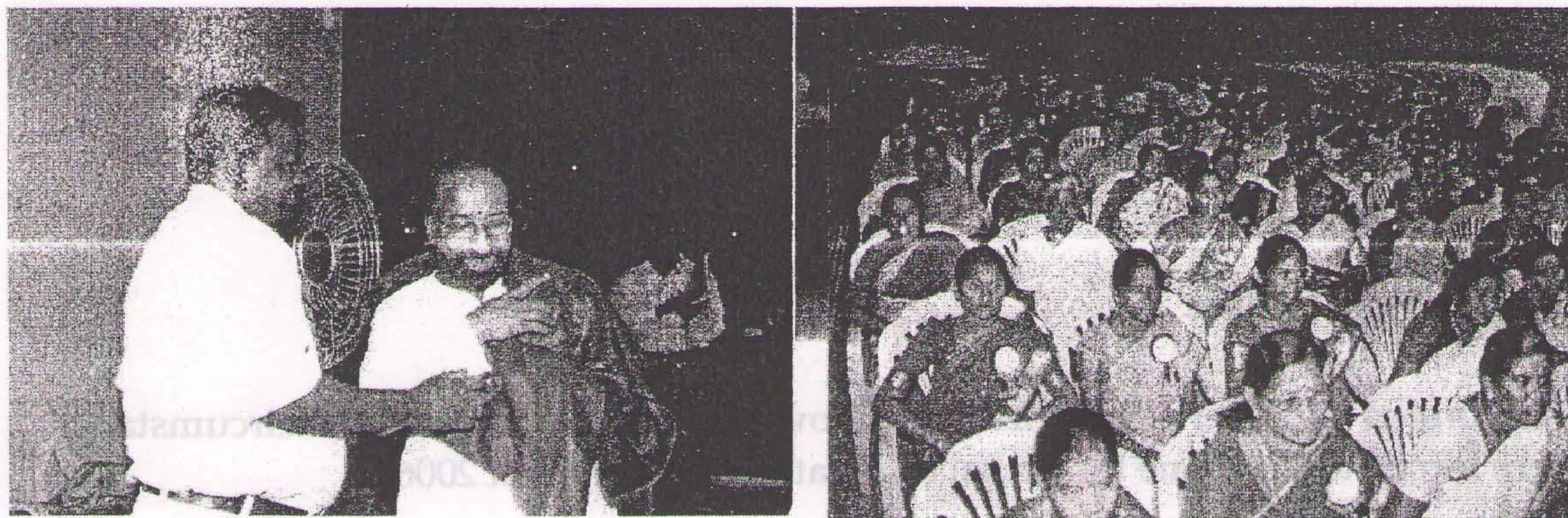
The celebration took place in the Kongu-Vellalar Thirumana Mandapam in the Namakkal district. Nearly 3000 women took part, along with Thiru. R. Venkatachalam (Founder & EC member of CSG) from the United States. His visit to India, and his participation in the function was a great morale boost for the whole CSG team.

Thiru S. Chandrasekaran (I.A.S Commissioner, Tamilnadu Election Commission) chaired the function. Thirumathi Kavitha Srinivasan (Secretary, KSR Educational & Charitable Institution, Thiruchengodu) was invited as a special guest.



Mr. Thiruppur Krishnan (Editor, Amudha Surabi magazine) shared his thoughts with the participants. Mrs. G. Muthu Meenal (Joint Director and Project Officer, Mahalir Thittam, Namakkal District) spoke about the role of the government in the development of underprivileged women.

The staff was recognized for their hard work and commitment with mementos and certificates.



Mr. Nagarajan (Assistant Project Officer) also spoke about the role played by NGOs in women's development.

CSG Executive Committee members Mrs. G.P. Ragini (President), Mr. T.V. Narayanaswamy (Secretary), Mr. S. Sivakaminathan (Treasurer), and CSG General Body members Mr. Thirunavukarasu, and Mrs. Hema Sathiyamurthy took part in the function.

Mrs. Geetha Mohan (GB member), compered the program and fellow GB member, Ms. Sankari, delivered the Vote of Thanks.

The SHG members displayed their products for the purpose of exhibition cum sales in front of the mandapam.

Towards the end of the function, SHG members gave colorful cultural programs for the audience.



The staff was recognized for their hard work and commitment with mementos and certificates.

K) International Women's Day Celebration

CSG celebrated International Women's day in Salem on March 16, 2007.

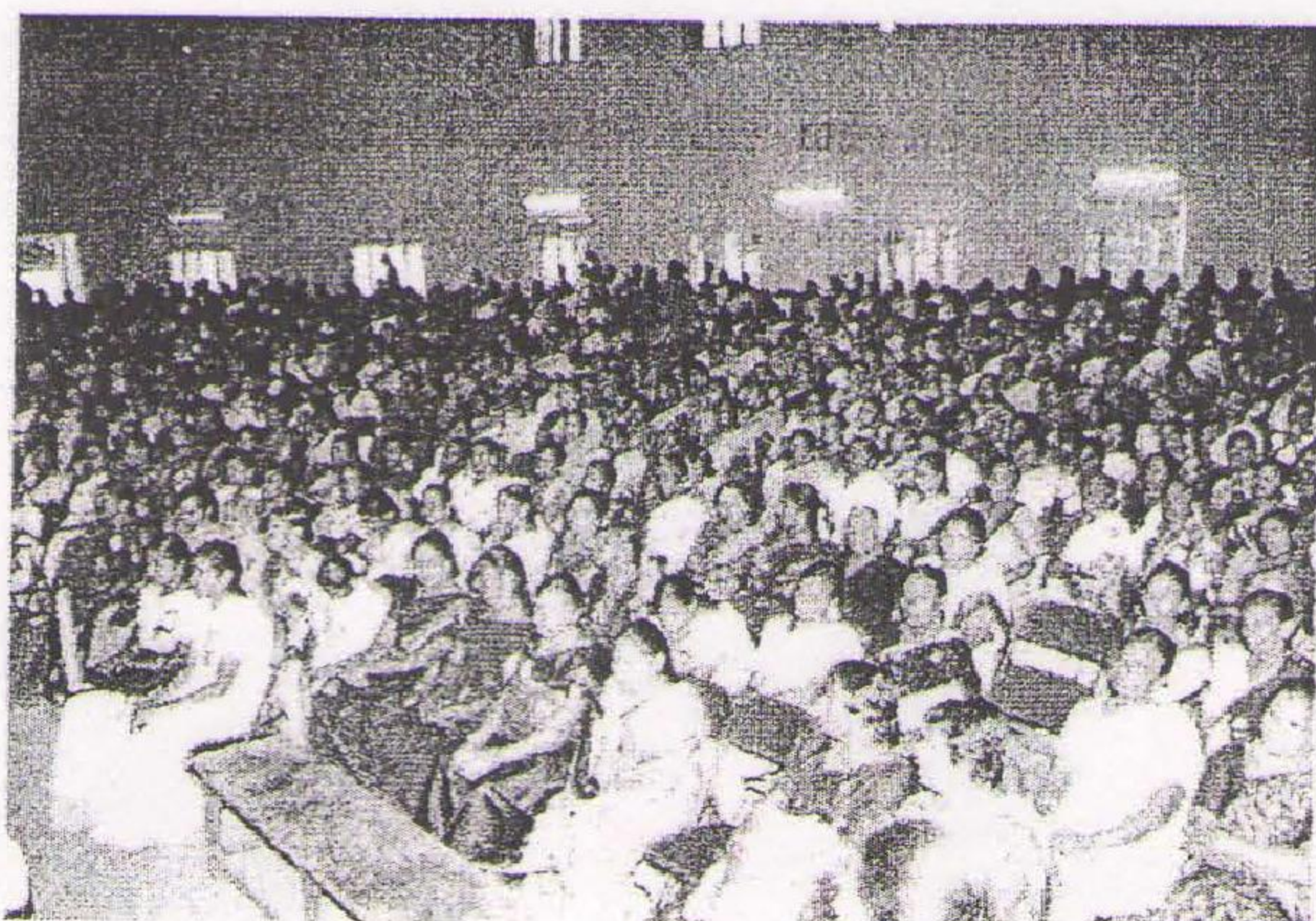
CSG invited 1,200 women (representatives of the groups from five blocks in Salem district) to the program.



Participants were provided with lunch and other refreshments. Mrs. Kavitha Srinivasan (Secretary, KSR Educational and Charitable Institution) delivered the keynote speaker, and Mrs. S. Manmatha Devi (Director, CSG) delivered the inaugural address highlighting the importance of celebrating International Women's Day. Chief Guest, Thiru. N. Mathivanan (Collector, Salem District), gave the presidential speech. Mrs. Kausalya Krishnan (Legal Advisor, South India Human Rights Protection Council) delivered a special speech on the occasion.



Thiru. T.V. Narayanaswamy (Secretary, CSG), Thiru. P.R.K. Ramesh (Project Officer, Mahalir Thittam), Thiru. Sivakaminathan (Treasurer, CSG), Thirumathi. Geetha Mohan (GB member, CSG), and Mrs. Rajeswari (SHG Animator) all spoke at the program. Mr. V. Murali (Field Monitoring Officer, CSG) gave the vote of thanks. As during CSG's Silver Jubilee Celebration, SHG members once again displayed their products for exhibition and sales.



The Collector was very appreciative of the program, and the women were highly motivated.

Conclusion

As per our vision and mission, CSG plans to eventually withdraw from the day-to-day management and operation of the SHGs once these groups have compiled themselves into larger entities (such as the PPIs or PSPPS) that are sustained by their own constituents. Once this has been accomplished, CSG, as it has done in the case of the PPIs and PSPPS, will maintain its consultative presence that will be used as and when needed or requested by these larger organizations.

Moreover, CSG currently has several programs and projects in the development stage that will offer placement and referral services, need-based training programs, cultural programs, educational sponsorship, and help with women's entrepreneurship.

CSG also has long-term plans for the establishment of a community college and an old age home. Plans to set up the old age home in fifteen acres of our own land in the Kalrayan Hills are pending, and we are currently in the process of mobilizing the necessary funds for construction. The search for a building for rent in the Chennai area is also taking place so that CSG can run a Community College, which will meet the needs of dropout students so that they may develop technical and various other skills, and will offer them an opportunity for socio-economic development.

CSG believes that by helping women and children depart from poverty, significant social and economic challenges will also be addressed. These include: hunger, unemployment, caste disparities, environmental destruction, education, child labour, female infanticide, foeticide, and other community needs.

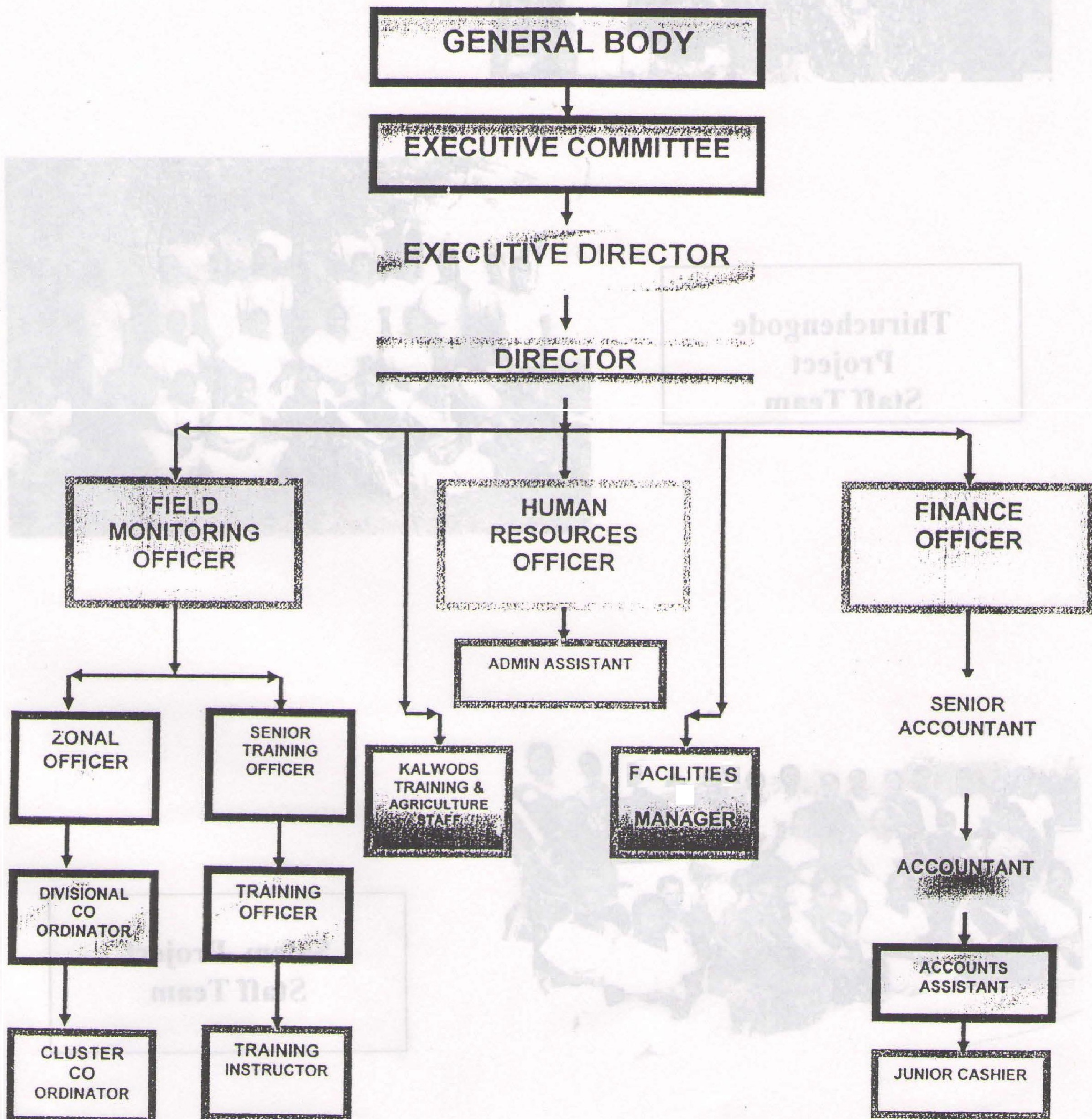
CSG believes that economic development and social cohesion can only be achieved by promoting the social and economic empowerment of women, by protecting their rights and by focusing on the physical, mental and emotional development of children.

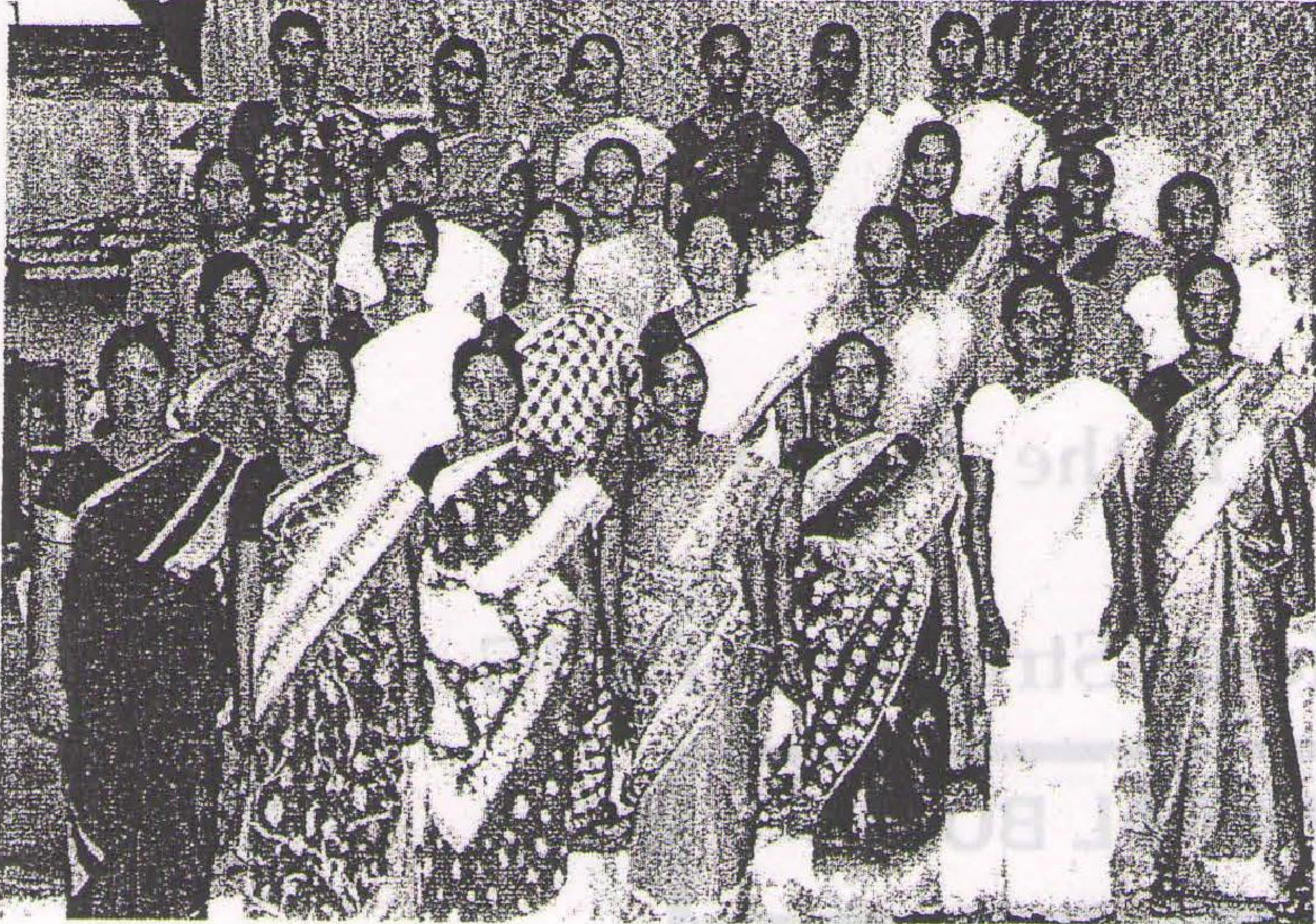


The Collector was very appreciative of the program, and the women were highly motivated.

APPENDIX

Organizational Structure of CSG





**Namakkal Project
Staff Team**



**Thiruchengode
Project
Staff Team**

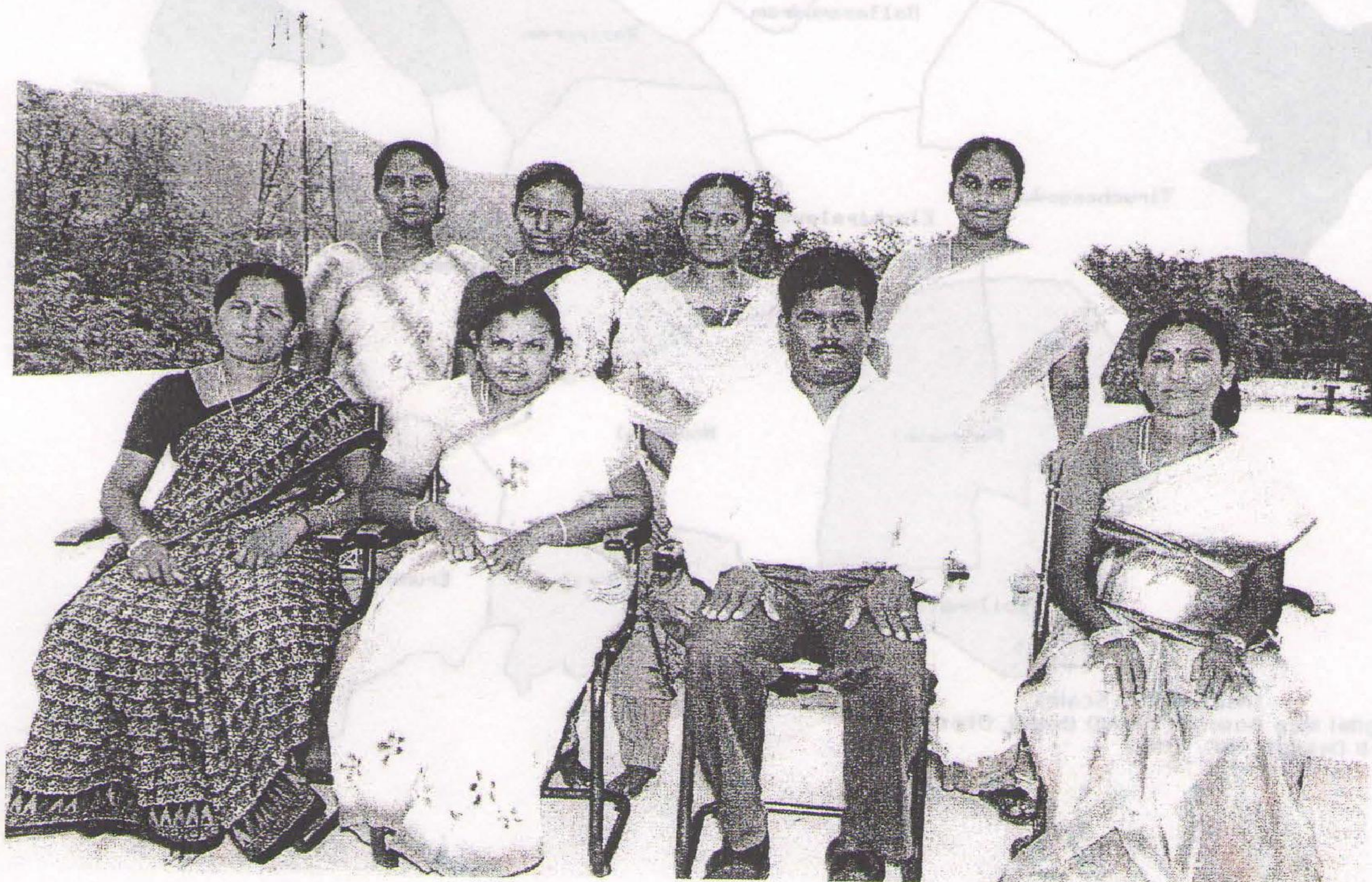


**Salem Project
Staff Team**

CENTRAL OFFICE CORE TEAM



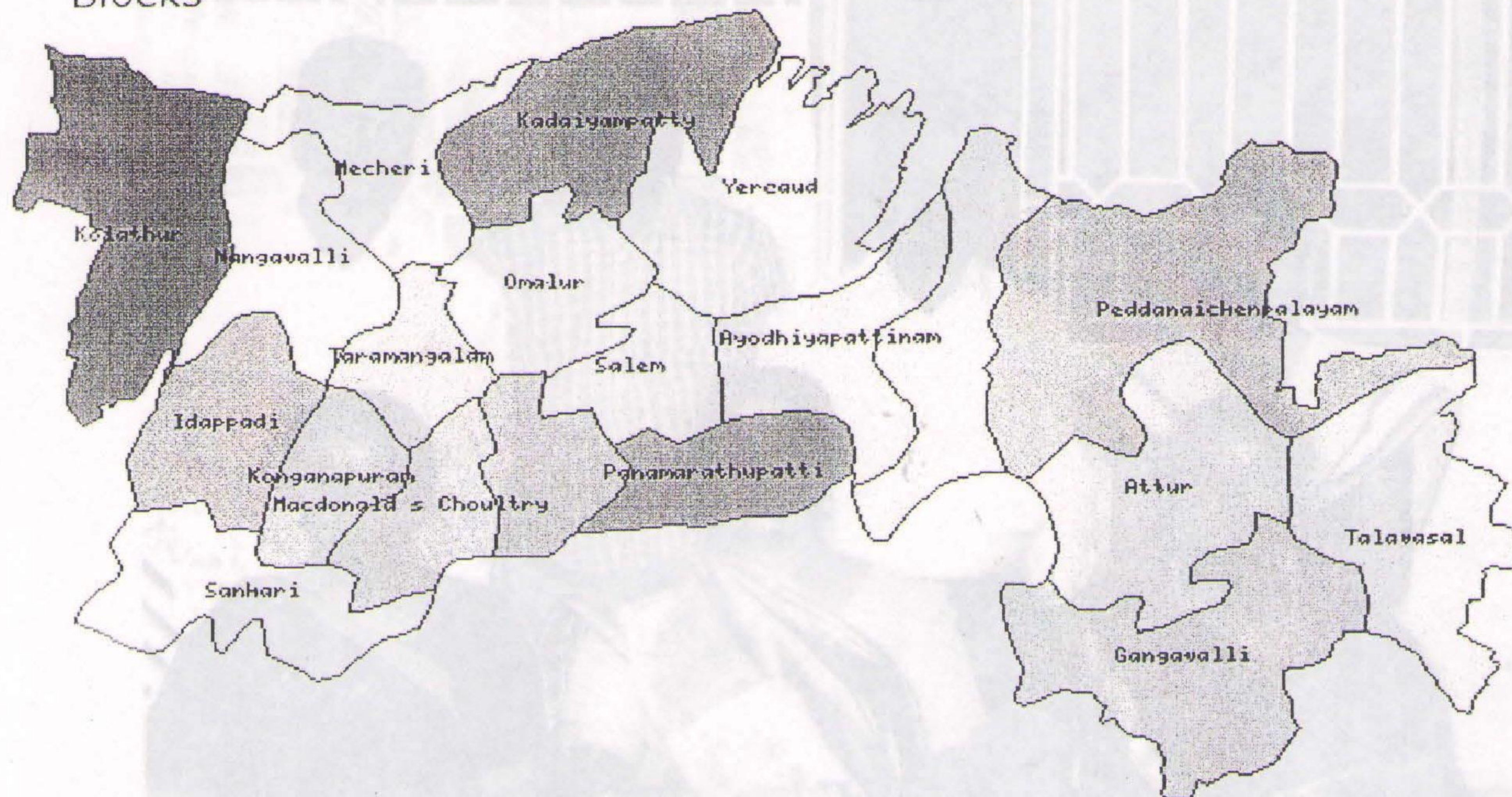
PROJECT OFFICE CORE TEAM



Maps of Project Areas

Salem District

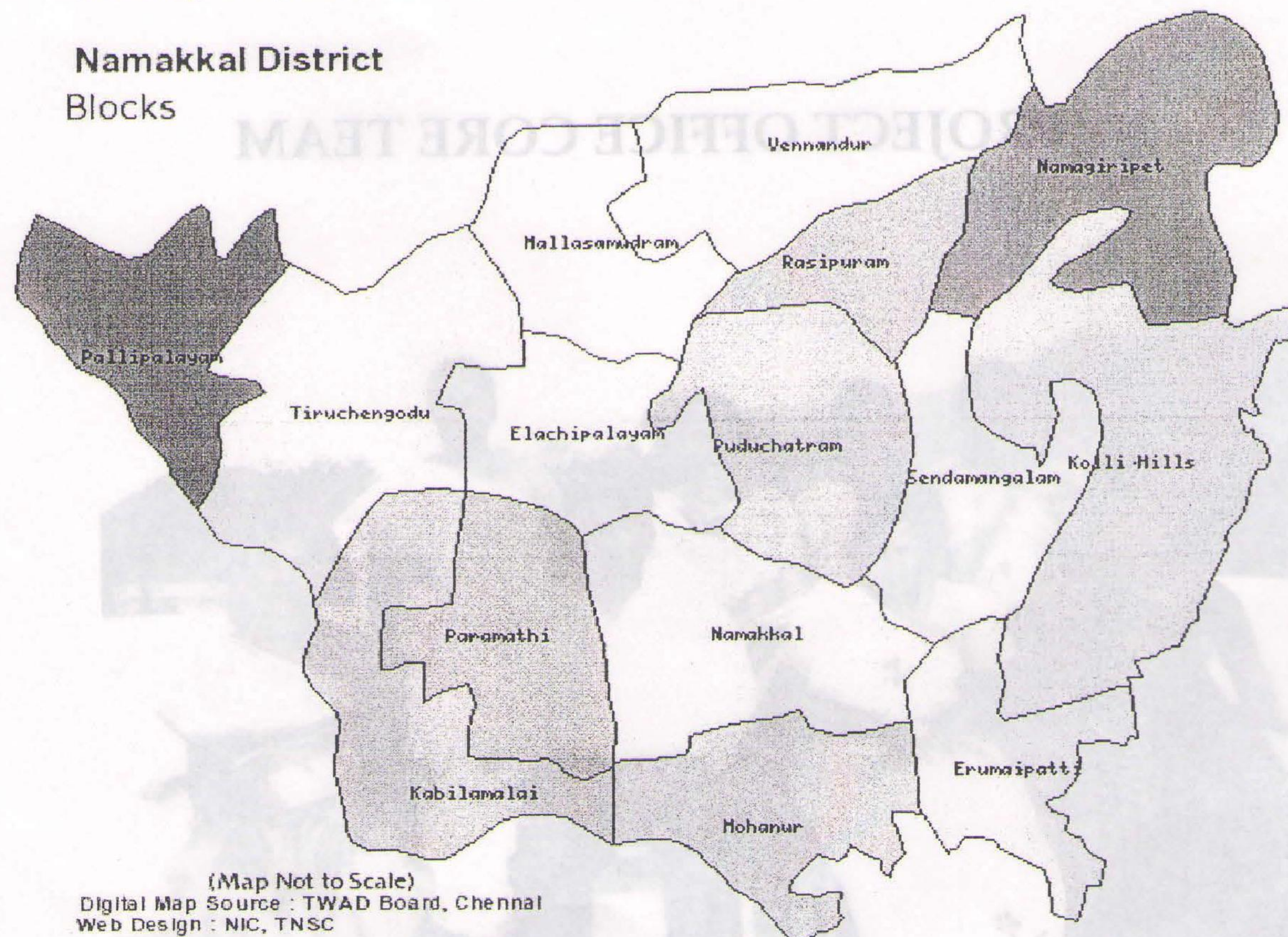
Blocks



(Map Not to Scale)
 Digital Map Source : TWAD Board, Chennai
 Web Design : NIC, TNSC

Namakkal District

Blocks

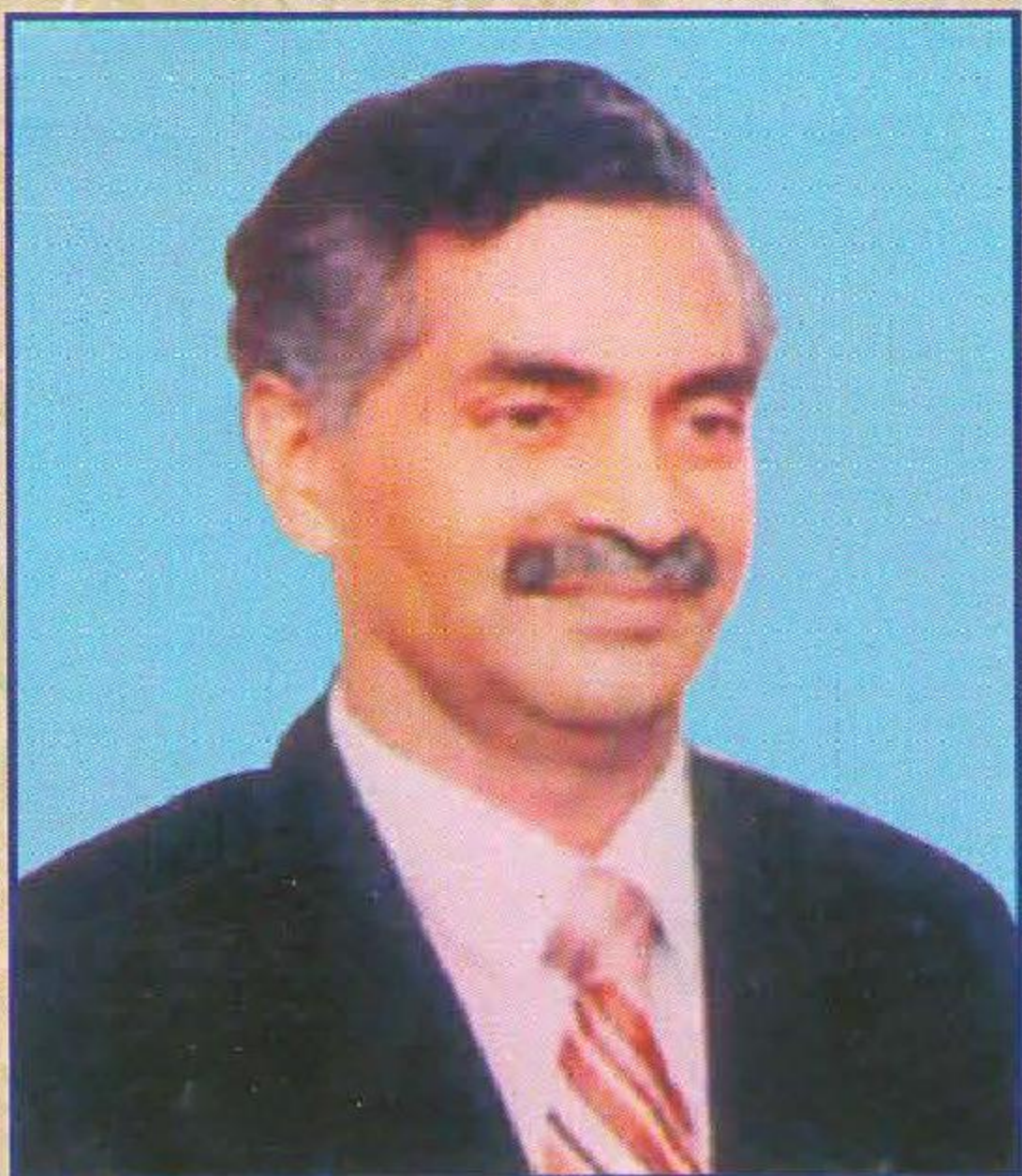


(Map Not to Scale)
 Digital Map Source : TWAD Board, Chennai
 Web Design : NIC, TNSC

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals and agencies for their Contribution & Support

- CSG Constituents
- R. Venkatachalam, CSG Founder
- CSG Executive Committee
- CSG General Body
- Tamil Nadu Corporation for the Development of Women
- ICCO, Netherlands
- Child Rights & You (CRY)
- APAC / VHS / US AID
- KSR Educational & Charitable Trust, Thiruchengodu
- Indian Bank
- Primary Agricultural Cooperative Bank
- Indian Overseas Bank
- Vijaya Bank
- Syndicate Bank
- State Bank of India
- Canara Bank
- Corporation Bank
- Kendria Vidya Bank
- UCO
- CSB
- Urban Bank
- All NGOs who coordinated and collaborated with CSG
- KKID, Coimbatore
- District Rural Development Agency, Salem and Namakkal
- Sampath Kumar & Co.
- Pengal Pannoku Iyakkam, Cuddalore and Salem
- Pattabiram Siruthozhil Puriyum Pengal Podhu Nala Sangam, Chennai
- Mrs. Kausalya Krishnan, Advocate, Salem
- TTK Products
- T.T. Ranganathan Clinical Research Institute (TTRCRI)



Mr. R. VENKATACHALAM
Founder & Vice President

CSG was founded in 1980 by social worker Venkatachalam Ramanujam and has for the past 25 years, relentlessly strived towards facilitating the participation of women and children in development process at the grassroots level to improve and advance the accessibility to various development schemes.

VISION

The building of a society where all individuals move away from poverty and injustice to economic autonomy, personal freedom and dignity where the rights of every individual, be they elderly or infant, are well protected.

MISSION

To provide knowledge, develop leadership, build skills, improve the socio and economic conditions and enable access to resources for the constituents of CSG and thus promote self-sustained development of the poor defending their rights and working for gender equal society.

The best way to serve and seek god is to serve the needy, to feed the hungry, to help the fallen and friendless, irrespective of caste and creed

Swami Vivekananda



The Community Services Guild

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