



**Society for People's Education and
Economic Change
(SPEECH)
Madurai**



**ANNUAL WORK REPORT
2013 - 14**

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SOCIETY FOR PEOPLE'S EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC CHANGE - SPEECH

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2013 – 2014

INTRODUCTION: The acronym SPEECH stands for Society for Peoples Education and Economic Change a nonprofit development organization founded in 1987 with few development professionals. Major objective of the organization is to provide material, technical support and mainly to play a catalyst role in the area of development of weaker sections .Right from the inception SPEECH has been working for the development of landless, small/marginal farmers, dalits, women and children. Victims of any form of disasters, HIV infected/affected are very much inclusive in the target groups.

To improve the social and educational facilities of the target area through wide range of activities is one of the prime objectives of SPEECH in order to cater the needs of economically, socially and educationally weaker sections of the communities. The weaker sections of above categories have been selected from Virudhunagar Thiruchuli, Kariapatti, Narikudi, Sivakasi, Vembakottai blocks of Virudhunagar district. Compare to other blocks in Virudhunagar the target blocks/villages are so much disadvantaged due to monsoon failure, lack of perennial water source, depletion of natural resources and lack of permanent employment.

People working in hazardous situations ,migrating for livelihoods, selling the agriculture lands for non agriculture purposes, depletion of animal population, encroachment of Prosopis a thorny weed, non availability of capital investment to start up enterprises are the push factors for the poor communities have attached themselves in hazardous industries for their livelihood though they await endangers.

Having realized the realities of target communities .SPEECH implemented the following projects for the sustainable development.

HEALTH CARE: Improving public health both curative and preventive aspects, providing of nutrition supplement to children of early childhood, promoting personal hygiene and environment sanitation are the prime activities said in the aims and objects of the society .In

order to achieve results and to tally the activities medical camps, promotion of herbal medicines, awareness on personal hygiene and environment sanitation, antenatal, post natal care, nutrition supply have been done during the reporting period.

- ❖ 600 children fall under the mal/under nourishment were provided with nutrition rich supplements made of iron/vitamin rich supplements and improved their health. Periodical follow up/observation made to check the improvements using ICMR protocol.
- ❖ 2500 children provided personal hygiene kit including paste, brush, coconut oil, soap (bathing and washing) comb, nail cutter.
- ❖ 400 health ambassadors developed by SPEECH from 40 villages and the health clubs consist of health ambassadors provided with first aid boxes and they rendered service not only to children but also to adults.
- ❖ 274 families improved their family nutrition by way of establishing Bio-intensive Organic kitchen gardens. In one season alone they have earned an income of Rs. 335650/-apart from their family consumption.
- ❖ 20 families of tribal community from our target village assisted to develop herbal gardens in order to promote alternate, traditional medicines. This activity has been done due to the implications/ consequences of allopathy medicines.
- ❖ Mass medical camps were conducted 6 times in the target villages through which 2892 people including children benefitted. Medicines prescribed by medical physician were supplied.18 disabled children were taken for further treatment,14 got operated and back to normal.
- ❖ In 10 government schools from Thiruchuli and Vembokottai areas Reverse Osmosis water plants have been established by SPEECH mainly the school students to receive pure drinking water properly maintained by school administration.

CAPACITY BUILDING: Ignorance of the target communities is the utmost factor to maintain status quo without any improvement in the living standards. The day to day scenario, development trends technology are changing day by day and it is essential to equip the capacity of individual to compete in the competitive world. The target communities were fed with information about government schemes, subsidies, linkage with banking sectors, computer, mass media, agriculture, animal husbandry, early warning system on disaster preparedness, micro enterprises and marketing. As said in the AIMS of the society .SPEECH played a catalyst role in total development. During the reporting period around 4000 target people were disseminated with concepts, policies, schemes and relevant information for their own development.

CHILD PROTECTION: The ministry of women and child development of GOI has selected SPEECH as the collaborative agency as well sub-centre in Virudhunagar and Sivakasi respectively to implement Integrated Child Protection through CHILDLINE 1098. Virudhunagar district is known for Child Labour, early forced marriages, school dropout and other violations for children. Government statistical data provides lot about the vulnerability of children.

CHILD LINE 1098 toll free service is the extended arm of Government of India as well state government to redress issues related children live under difficult circumstances. In the reporting period 93 early forced marriages were stopped by SPEECH CHILD LINE in co-ordination with Anti human trafficking unit of Police department, district social welfare board and child welfare committee. 180 children were extended sponsorship to continue education. Around 21 schools were disseminated with the information on child protection, governments mainstream complaint mechanism, rehabilitation by district child protection unit, social welfare board and rehabilitation departments.

In alignment with child protection of CHILD LINE ,Indias agreement with UNCRC and millennium development goals related to children and women intensive projects have been implemented in Sivakasi and Thiruchuli covering around 20,000 population .2500 children were supported directly for their education, entertainment, skill development, co-curricular activities, health and nutrition. The Projects supported 80 families to improve their income through agriculture

development, Poultry promotion, goat rearing, and other small enterprises. Those families are now out of hazardous jobs, acting as owners, created assets and increased income. Family support program through sustainable livelihood development has boosted up their self esteem and sense of ownership to economically weaker families/women. Income increase of families has resulted in children continuing education, provided with nutritive food, good clothes and proper health care. The three tier approach of child protection of SPEECH has a role to work with the communities beyond children and families. In 4 villages community centres were constructed which act as a centre for sharing information on forecast, agriculture, marketing status, and current events relevant to Children ,Youth, farmers animal rearers and general public too. 6 digital libraries have been promoted by SPEECH that are highly utilized children and youth.

In two of the target villages study centers were established and equipped with solar power for uninterrupted power supply so that the children can study without any electricity fluctuation.

During the reporting period in 24 villages solar street lights were installed through with around 2000 children benefitted when there has been acute electricity failure.

Life savers club with a membership of 48 very active where in the youth, adult are the members are. They had been periodically organizing blood donation camps in coordination with government health department. On request the volunteers donate blood to the patients in virudhunagar and other neighboring districts. Sivakasi being a disaster prone area meets an average of 30 fire accidents every year .In that fatal situation the life savers club plays a major role in rescue operation of victims, donating blood and have saved more than 22 lives in Sivakasi area alone.

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY : Bring under cultivation of fallow lands in the target areas is one of the aims of the society to ensure food security to the weaker sections. Most of the dry lands are lying unutilized for long years and completely surrounded by thorny bushes. Once they are seen to be unfit for agri production by the middle persons/brokers they motivate the land owners to sell the lands. These several families have lost their entitlement and they are involved in odd jobs as semi skilled labourers. SPEECH with a notion of increasing

agriculture production aiming at food security has set up dry land farming models with the support of donors, agriculture research stations, NABARD and other relevant live departments. In the reporting period addition to the 1000 hectares 120 acres have been brought back to cultivation. Components like uprooting of thorny bushes, tillage of lands, and formation of farm field bunds with silt traps, establishing gully checks, farm ponds, and percolation ponds, supply of organic inputs, tree seedlings, and fodder development were supported to the small and marginal farmers. Promotion of minor millets, vegetables, horticulture had been part of agriculture development ensuring food security. The models created by SPEECH are serving as a tool for replication for several other small and marginal farmers. In addition animal husbandry is also promoted to supplement the farmer's income.



Society for People's Education and Economic Change

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



School Notebook and Uniform Distribution



Construction of the multipurpose center in Paraipatti village is complete

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Children Digital library established in KSP village with 58 Digital materials (Cds, DVDs and DVVD ROMs)



696 school children / 22 teachers were oriented on the concept of school safety in 2 Schools.

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



34 ICDS staff from the program villages received training on UNCRC



112 children who are in the sponsorship program had their health checked up of those 6 children were followed up for minor ailments.

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



PP and SK resource centers received weighing machines and growth monitoring charts



66 pregnant women took part in three separate trainings focusing on pre and post natal care

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Constructions of 40 toilets spreading in all program villages are over



Construction of Roof rain water harvesting model

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



DRR trainings conducted in two fireworks factories covering 120 daily wage laborers



2 CBDRM trainings conducted in two villages covering 102 community members

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



SHG Members meeting on Book Keeping



CMCJ representatives participated in the spider tool workshop

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Knowledge of 500 CMCJ children / households on garbage segregation enhanced through the supply of recyclable plastic collection tools.



Children Day Program



School Safety Program

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



A herbal garden has been established in Konkankulam village



Bio Intensive Garden



Plantation of 800 Neem, 500 Pungai and 200 Flame of the forest trees completed, this activity has been well executed by the Reps of CMCJ in their respective villages.