



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



**ANNUAL WORK REPORT
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SOCIETY FOR PEOPLE'S EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC CHANGE (SPEECH)

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2014-15

SPEECH was formed on non profit basis for the poor and needy to enable to help themselves for all round development. Basically on understanding the rural realities the objectives have been framed so that those can be achieved on a longer run with specific activities. Economic deprivation, cultural orthodoxies, gender discrimination, lack of livelihood options, inadequate health facilities of the target areas necessitated SPEECH to intensity its interventions aiming at bring in change in the living standards. SPEECH believes that for any development the beneficiaries should be involved right from planning level so that the results will be sustainable and they will hold the responsibilities. In each and every activities , involvement of target communities envisaged in order to establish sense of ownership. Based on the core problems projects have been designed to address the problem and to bring in change in the status, several donors were approached and fund was mobilised.

India has definite policy of child protection, Ministry is operating and several schemes are also in place. Nevertheless child protection is still at stake. In particular the rural children face lot of rights violations in day to day life. Conducive child friendly atmosphere is not yet created for the child to enjoy child hood rights.

Hence child protection project in Sivakasi and Retrieving hopes for child rights in Thiruchuli are implemented to ensure child protection.

The worst form of child rights violation is children in particular adolescent girls are forced to marry even before the age allocated by government. Culture, caste, economic status, peer

pressure play a vital role in early forced marriages. A special project to prevent early forced marriages was implemented with the support of Embassy of Canada in New Delhi.

SPEECH is also working among the displaced victims of war from Srilanka. With the approval from Commissioner of Rehabilitation of Tamilnadu SPEECH works in Thiruvathavur and Uchapatti Srilankan Refugee camps of Madurai.

Practicing low cost agriculture aiming at restoring the lands and make them productive is yet another project of SPEECH. Land development, alternate agriculture, promotion of agro based industries are the core activities of the project.

CHILD PROTECTION AND RETRIEVING HOPE FOR CHILDREN

India's child protection policy talks adult as DUTY BEARERS and children as RIGHT HOLDERS. This is in line with UNCRC, however in reality it is not well practiced. Children are abused, victimised, tortured by many ways by their own family members, communities and wherever they go. Viruthunagar and SPEECHs operational areas no way exceptional from the Indian context. Certain violations such as child labour, school dropout ,early forced marriage, sexual abuse, domestic violence, workload at household level, corporal punishment, un acceptance, ignoring are very much relevant to our target villages of Virudhunagar. Basically to redress the issues that threaten child protection our project interventions have been designed.

- In order to motivate children to continue education and addressing the issue of school dropout, children of 3000 economically backward families were provided with educational supplies.
- 142 girls were supported with college fees and they are the first generation scholars. 8 higher education committees are active in sending children to higher education.

- 5000 children were provided opportunities to improve their extra-curricular skills, talents, capacities, 8 children have won prizes in district level in oratorical contest conducted by Education department.
- School enrolment campaigns along with education departments resulted in identification of dropout students and readmission in schools. 85 such children have been enrolled in schools.
- 713 under weight children were provided with nutrition supplement.
- 3 schools were provided with water plant to purify water and to make it drinkable. The TDS of water was more 800 in those schools and the children were suffering out of water borne diseases. Now that problem is solved and the children drink pure water.
- 8 schools were supported to establish kitchen garden in the school premises and the total yield was used by the students themselves.
- 40 villages have been taught about the disasters and evacuation maps are drawn to educate the children and communities.
- 13 early forced marriages were stopped in our target villages in coordination with police department, child line and district social welfare board.
- Local level committees under the chairmanship of Panchayat president have been constituted to redress the violations of children.
- Simultaneously more than 2000 parents, adults and other stakeholders such as teachers, health staff, anganwadi workers, revenue people were oriented about their role in protecting rights of children.
- 180 school teachers were oriented on inclusive education, play way teaching, child protection and their roles in building the values of children.

- Social inclusion of disabled children, orphan and semi-orphan children had been an agenda of child protection and 352 such children have been supported for education materials for their mobility, medical treatment, etc.
- 1900 children who did not have birth certificates motivated and helped to avail birth certificate which is a legal entity for the children.

PREVENTION OF EARLY FORCED MARRIAGES IN VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT.

Under the prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006), the legal age of marriage is 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys. In rural India, 47 percent (UNFPA report) of girls get married before the age of 18. However, the prevalence of early forced marriages still exceeds 60 per cent in India alone houses one-third of all child brides. The practice is more prevalent in rural areas compared to urban areas, with rates of 56 and 29 percent respectively (UNICEF 2011). There is a clear association between child marriage and violence of girl children and their education too. Empirical evidence shows the following as the reasons: Poverty and Insecurity as one of the root causes; In many communities, marriage is often perceived as a way to ensure the economic subsistence of girls and women with no autonomous access to productive resources and living in situations of extreme poverty; Marrying children can also have economic advantages, such as lower dowries for younger brides; Child marriage also takes place in wealthy families, where it is perceived as a means of preserving wealth amongst families from the same socioeconomic class; Families are encouraged to marry their children young because it is the accepted cultural practice; parents' decisions to marry their daughters at an early age are often motivated by stereotypical views of sexuality and women's role in society (Plan International). Marriage is viewed as a way to protect girls from the risk of sexual violence, prevent pre-marital relations and potential dishonour to the

family and avoid criticism of older unmarried girls as impure (UNICEF) restore family honour in cases of sexual violence or hide real or perceived sexual orientation.

The incidences of child marriage are very high in Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu. The experience of Childline (1098 program sanctioned by government of India) interventions of SPEECH and community based initiatives in preventing child marriages is very rich and effective. SPEECH have prevented more than 300 child marriages in the past 2 years in this district using community based initiatives and child line (1098 program). SPEECH would like to take their rich experience, good practices, learning and challenges to the geographical areas, six blocks (Sivakasi, Vembakottai, Virudhunagar, Thiruchuli, Narikudi and Kariapatti) covering 150 villages where the risk is very high and these kind of interventions are very much needed. Under these circumstances, SPEECH conceived this project idea (Preventing sexual violence and early forced marriage) with the following objectives and expected outcomes:

Objectives

1. Formal and informal community-based mechanisms for child protection and prevention of early forced marriages strengthened in the targeted communities.
 2. Equitable access to formal and informal child protection services, especially for the girl children.
 3. Girls have increased resilience, life skills and capacity for self-protection and protection of others from any form of violence and neglect.
- ❖ 150 villages from 6 blocks of Viruthunagar reached with the information of Early forced marriages and 15,000 stickers have been pasted as to create awareness.
 - ❖ 6 legal camps have been conducted and 37 cases have been identified for redressal.

- ❖ A research on vulnerable areas in Viruthunagar district conducted and the results are submitted to the district administration.
- ❖ Birth registration and marriage registration made mandate in 6 blocks.
- ❖ 600 adolescent girls were provided with life skill training
- ❖ 150 monitoring groups to prevent early forced marriage were formed and still active in addressing those issue.
- ❖ All the target communities are well known about child line 1098, Anti human trafficking unit, district social welfare board and child welfare committees of district.

LEBARA CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Project Goal

“To improve the living standards of the Srilankan refugees with special reference to the children residing in Madurai and to establish access to access to quality education , nutrition and improved health care to the children of Kamalanagar slum in Madurai”

- To ensure food security and children nutrition to the vulnerable families through appropriate viable practices and service delivery.
- Creating opportunities for the children to come to gather and to express /exercise their rights, talents and skills.
- Increasing the access for safe drinking water and clean environment to children thereby reducing the contagious diseases.
- To provide opportunities to children to continue quality education with out any break and to enjoy their child hood rights.
- To establish sound health fence across families to ensure protected health status of children through appropriate health interventions.

511 Low weight children provided with fibre and protein rich materials such as white chickpea Jaggery, Bleach chickpea , Groundnut red aval, soya been, green gram and dry fruits. While the distribution was on the mothers we oriented to make different varieties with

the materials. Nutrition demonstration is one of the components of food and nutrition. Now that the children have increased their weight and very active.

- Nutrition exhibition was organised 165 mothers prepared various receipies and displayed in the exhibition.
- 1079 Children were provided with education materials
- 105 orphan and semi orphan children were supported with uniform
- 542 children and 325 from two srilankan refugee camps and a slum undergone medical check-up and provided with medicines.
- A Blood donation cap was organized in Thiruvathavur camp in collaboration with government Rajaji hospital.

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



School Notebook and Uniform Distribution



School Bag Distribution to School Going Children



44 teachers from government schools trained in handicrafts using different varieties of waste materials.

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



24 wide range of learning materials to develop cognitive skills of children were provided to five ICDS centres from our project intervention villages, benefiting around 100 preschool children.



Education materials of note book distributed to school children in all working villages

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



148 adolescent girls from all program villages guidance to good health practice and self hygienic



428 children who are in the sponsorship program had their health checked up of those 8 children were followed up for minor ailments.

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



282 packs of country vegetable seeds for kitchen gardening provided for families through the federation / CMCJ children.



A kit of surgical tools (17 instruments) and 15 plastic chairs for in patients provided to KLMNP primary health center

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Fire safety, First aid and Rescue jointly with fire services and 108 services



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ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Environmental issues in relation to the cement production - exposure to TANCEM cement factory & Recyclable plastic collection. Simplification of Child protection policy of SPEECH through a special drawing camp. Orientation given for CMCJ children on the various levels of the movement (National, State and District levels)



PLF representatives, Orientation on Complaint box mechanism Rapport with Social welfare departments to disseminate GOVT schemes and Traditional food practices and Specific issues of Panchayats were the focuses

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



knowledge of School safety concept (Disaster management) transfer to 166 children and teachers



Orientation on Fire safety, First aid and Rescue jointly with fire services and 108 services done in ATR 2 fire industries were 43 labours participated in this meeting

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



31 Nanayam group members trained Door Mate knitting using old Sarees & Jute



30 Nanayam group new representative leaders trained in book keeping

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



30 SWM segregation and Plastic waste collection drum distributed in 14 village



The construction of school toilets in KMP village

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



964 school children and teachers were oriented on the concept of school safety in Government HS School, KLN Patti and ATR school, Alangulam



328 children from all program villages participated in a block level sports meet of which 60 children received medals for various track events

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



22 youth / female / tailors participated in the EDP trainings from three villages. Value addition for their occupation was the focus such as embroidery, oil painting on plain , stone and Jamikee works etc



20 formers from three agricultural villages participated a training program conducted by VIBIX Natuarl Honey Bee Farm, went on an exposure to the farm to gain firsthand experience on this trade. Model bee boxes have been supplied to the beneficiaries who have installed the boxes in their gardens.

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



A herbal garden has been established in Paraipatti village with 34 plants with medicinal values



68 young mothers took part in three separate trainings focusing on infant feeding



Society for People's Education and Economic Change

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Seminar on IWD conducted in SPEECH CPP campus with the strength of 800 NANAYAM group reps. The special seminar focused on gender equity and strongly voiced against the sexual violations / atrocities committed against women



83 PLF reps participated in the Pongal (Harvest) Festival which ensured the solidarity of the federations

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Trees within school premises are more welcoming, create spaces for shady outdoor classes for recreation and provide green cover for environment protection. 200 tree saplings were planted in three schools by the school ECO club members along with the project children club members. School children and teachers planned and planted the saplings and small student groups came up voluntarily to ensure the growth of the saplings.



Tree Sapling Distribution

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Having toilets and water is a basic necessity in schools; however it is not available in many rural schools. Due to this, children are irregular to school and eventually drop out. Well maintained school toilets certainly improve health and attendance level of children. Sanitation facility established in Nathikudi middle school through the construction of school toilet benefiting 171 students



Access to safe drinking water created in 10 schools benefiting around 700 school children through RO plants which could provide 25 liters of purified water per hour. The images are from the Government middle school, Lakshmiapuram wherein 60 children are benefited with this SEED project

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Pond Renovation



Check-Dam Construction in A. Lakshmiapuram Village



Community Stand Post has been constructed in Karisalkulam village enabling the residents of the village fetch the water supplied from the local Panchayat in a comfortable and a hygienic way. The leaking water, while fetching has been diverted to a soak away pit for recharging. This model completely arrests the waste water logging and spreading of water borne diseases.

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Chicken Gage Distribution to Beneficiaries



Country Chicken distribution to Triuchuli PEECH working villages



Cultural Awareness camp on Child Protection



Bio Intensive Garden