

Kaingkarya Social Welfare Organisation
Annual Report 2003-2004

Kaingkarya, involved in developmental activities for women and children for thirteen years is moving towards a significant phase. There is a constant struggle to balance between expansion and focus in our activities. We aim at offering basic educational services and skill developmental training to children, women and youth as we consider that these two factors will equip the individuals with instruments for an informed and self sustained living.

Kaingkarya's persistent search for an infrastructure at Thirusoolam ended when the Consulate of Japan gave a grant of \$37,661 for constructing a social welfare center and a vehicle for a mobile crèche. 8th October 2003 is a memorable day and a milestone for Kaingkarya as the welfare center and the vehicle were inaugurated on that day.

This year witnessed a series of events with the commencement of a Comprehensive Health Care programme for the welfare of the people

The various activities may be grouped under the following categories:

- Education
- Vocational Training
- Women's Program
- Health Care Programs
- Community activities

Education

The major objective of Kaingkarya is to help children attain school education without any difficulties. The problem of lack of fund to buy uniforms and note books or the children being compelled to work to support the family is tackled by timely assistance and counseling by the staff. Kaingkarya has been working in the Corporation Schools of Zone 9 from 1998 and is able to bring an attitudinal change in the teachers and parents.

A survey was conducted at Zone 9 and at Thirusoolam to identify dropouts and child workers and to motivate them to join the school. Kaingkarya was Coordinating with the Government's program of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and enrolling children in the formal schools.

School Programs:

The rapport created by Kaingkarya with the school authorities paved the way for a smooth functioning of the following activities in the 14 corporation schools Zone 9 of Corporation of Chennai.

- Enrolment: Children who are dropouts and who had discontinued for many reasons were made to enroll in Corporation Schools. They were given letters from Kaingkarya and were assisted to get community certificated and transfer certificates which are essential for admission.
- Counselling: The parents were given counseling on the need of education for their children.
- Follow up of drop out students: Kaingkarya staff's constant visit to the school and meeting the teachers helps them to check the drop out list from the attendance registers. They go to their houses and find out the cause for not coming to school. Whatever help needed is provided by referring to the concerned people.
- Constant meetings with teachers to check retention in school
- Strengthening of Parent Teacher Associations by arranging resource persons to talk to them. During important days the parents are invited for special talk by resource persons. Talks on nutrition, alcoholism, savings, parent's role in education, ill effects of marriage at an early age, child labour were given
- Training to teachers on child rights Teachers were made to attend workshops where the rights of children was emphasized and the role of teachers was stressed
- Forming of education Committees from PTAs to fight for quality education for their children
- Competitions and cultural programs to express the hidden talents of the students
- Strengthening the Volunteers' club
- Arranging personality Camps

Transit School at Thirusoolam

Kaingkarya has been working for four years in this area to prevent children from becoming child laborers by running a transit school. This transit school is a preparatory place for the dropouts and child workers who are keen on joining school. These children learn to adjust to the formal system of education by attending the transit school regularly. A well-trained teacher takes care of the children and moulds them according to their capabilities. This is the first attempt in achieving education and upliftment for children in Thirusoolam area. 35 children attend this school, which offers a bridge course and prepares them to go to formal school. Lunch is provided to these children. Dropouts and child workers are motivated to join this school where there are plenty of inputs to enhance their creativity and make learning a joyful experience.

Transit school will look into the holistic development of the child to grow to the level of school going and to sustain in school. We already have trained teachers who can take care of the minimum levels of learning for each child according to their age. At a time twenty-five children can undergo this course. The duration for the course will vary for each child, which means that every time a child is ready to be mainstreamed another needy one can be enrolled. In this way all the dropouts will be covered.

In our new approach, we send field workers door-to-door to categorize the children into four cadres namely, the ones who can read and understand what they read, the second being the children who can only read, third being the children who can identify only the alphabets and the last category are the ones who can not read and write. After the children are divided, each one is devised a special study material according to the category and are taught separately by trained teachers in the transit school in the evening hours. Once these children reach a particular level of learning, they shall then be mainstreamed into formal education.

We have been successfully running a transit school for four years and rehabilitated 120-drop outs and child laborers in the formal system of education. Our transit has helped many migratory laborers children to turn a new leaf in their lives. Lunch is also served to the children as an incentive to encourage them to attend school and to improve their health condition. Educational materials have been provided to the children and they are motivated to learn the subjects in a step-by-step manner. At first the children read the given manual, from that the reading standard of the children is assessed and accordingly the subjects are taught to them.

Supplementary Education Center

The supportive services are given to 50 needy children who require extra coaching. These classes are conducted in the evenings after their school hours at the social welfare centre.

Adult education:

The whole community is illiterate. They are very much exploited by their contractors and owners. Hence they need to know the basics of reading and writing. Through our awareness programmes they now feel the importance of education and are eager to learn. As there are many women who are illiterates, this program of literacy education has been initiated as the result of the new premises. Classes have commenced and 10 ladies are attending in the 1st batch of training.

Vocational Training

Sakthi Trust of Indian Overseas Bank is instrument in giving hope to number of girls belonging to poor families in slum area. They showed remarkable interest and their aptitude in various skills were very encouraging. Kaingkarya Social Welfare Organisation conducted the following training programmes from January 2003 to December 2003 with the support of Sakthi Trust and a total of 115 Candidates have been trained under various vocational skills suited to raise the standards of the living of the underprivileged girls.

Nursing Assistant

There are many girls who are unable to continue their studies due to lack of financial support. They are forced to look for immediate and decent employment to rise above their standard of living. Among these students many have an aptitude for nursing and have undergone our Nurse-Aid training sponsored by the Sakthi Trust of I.O.B.

- They under took training in various private nursing home and regular theory classes were taken by qualified nursing instructor. Most of them are absorbed by the hospital where they underwent the practical training.

Tailoring

At present we are running Tailoring classes for twenty-five girls at the target area in our own premises.. The duration of the course is six months, as demand is great for trained tailors in the export garment factories situated in the vicinity of the Village. A trained instructor teaches the girls in batches. All the basics of stitching including embroidery are taught. A certificate will be issued to the ones who successfully complete the course. Assistance will be given to the trainees who want to start their own production unit and also help them to find placements in MEPZ, the largest export garment production unit at Tambaram.

JUTE

The Jute promotion council of India assisted by organizing has committed to support us with a Jute production unit. This will provide employment to another twenty women. The council will train the beneficiaries and give all technical support to install and run the unit. Paper bags are made by us and marketed to shops through our self-help groups in a small scale. If we initiate this, we will provide employment opportunities to 25 women. These two trades will be introduced to this community. There is definite market for these two products as they are eco friendly.

Office Assistants Course:

Girls who have completed 10th and 12th are encouraged to undergo this training as it equips them with necessary skills to work in an office. Basic computer skills along with spoken English training was given.

Community health workers

There is a dearth of trained personnel for community work with knowledge of nursing skills. To meet the demands of NGOs kaingkarya has been giving training to girls with an aptitude for commitment to society. This training is for a period of one year with six months practical training in Nursing and six months training in community work.

A milestone in the growth of Kaingkarya

As Kaingkarya was working in rented premises there were problems of continuous shifting. Hence we approached the Consulate of Japan for assistance in building a welfare centre and to have a vehicle for transporting children from the quarry to the centre. It was fortunate that our appeal for help was granted and on 20th February, 2003, Kaingkarya Social Welfare Organization signed an agreement with the Consul General of Japan for a grant of US\$37,661. and the construction for the centre was started in April 03. During the period of construction we built a small hut at the back of the site as temporary shelter for the transit school. In the month of October 2003 the welfare centre was inaugurated. The site is located at 2/149 Kannabiran Street, Thirusoolam. This 1500 Sqft building comprises of Transit school, Vocational training and a Medical centre.

Community Programs

The following activities were implemented.

Events

- A Teacher from Krishnamachari yoga Mandiram conducted yoga classes weekly once for Six months to the trainees.
- Personality Development camp was organized for SSA children. These children were taken to Vandalur Zoo as an exposure visit sports competitions were held and prizes were distributed.
- Every week volunteers came and spent some time with members of volunteers club of R. V. Nagar School These students were given awareness on various issues. Visits to other schools and institutions were arranged for them
- During the enrolment period many parents came to Kaingkarya seeking assistance for uniforms Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan High School was approached for help and students responded well by contributing money to buy uniform materials for children studying in corporation school. Uniforms were distributed at Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan High School for the needy students.
- National Institute of Information Technology sponsored basic training in computer literacy 250 youth from Ashok Nagar K.K. Nagar Saidapet Thirusoolam and Tambaram.
- As part of Children's day, CRY and PIZZA HUT organized a fun filled day for children at Pizza hut with the Cine Actor Mr. Madhavan

- Ms. Jayamadhavan, writer came on Saturdays to teach street theatre to the trainees of Kaingkarya Vidhya Niketan (Sharadha Math Celebration)
- Self help group members had made many products such as Bouquet, Jute bags, greeting cards ,Wall hangings decorative items, Paper bags, Candles, detergent powder, Soap oil sold them at Mylapore, Eithraj College, Bharathi Art College and Koyembedu Market,
- Sports programme was arranged and sponsored by Concern India Foundation and Citi Bank for 50 children from Transit school Thirusoolam and 25 children from R.V. Nagar Corporation school.
- Essay competition was held among the school students and Prizes were distributed by the department of Pediatrics on world health day at German Hall
- A meeting of the teachers and parents were organized in the panchayat school to promote parent teacher association and to create understanding with the government officials.
- Tata Consultancy Services has provided a computer and trained one staff in imparting literacy A Doctor is in charge of medical centre. It costs 30,000.per month and Rs.3.6 lakh annually.
- We conducted a Puppet show on 7th October a day before the inauguration of the center took place as we felt that this will give an awareness to the public about our activities.
- A Campaign was conducted on Aug 25th by the Transit School and Panchayat school Children to spread the need for Rain Water Harvesting.
- During one of our meetings with Panchayat Board President, they expressed their desire to spread awareness about protecting the environment. As an NGO working in Thirusoolam, we took the responsibility of planting saplings in and around the Panchayat School and Office Compound.Tree Planting Ceremony was inaugurated by Ms. Parvathi Malladi, on 27th Aug, 2003. The Tree Guards were sponsored by MALLADI PHARMACEUTICALS
- The women from SHG were given training by our staff on the concept of Self Help Group, importance of regular meetings and attendance, maintenance of the accounts etc.They were also given training in home products such as washing powder, cleaning powder, soap oil, candle making and phenyl.

Integrated Health Programmes

Comprehensive Health Care programme for the welfare of the people was initiated due to the following reasons.

- Non availability of health care facilities for the community in the near vicinity makes it difficult for those suffering from simple ailments to go all the way to Pallavaram for medical facilities which is five kilometers away from Thirusoolam.
- The dust of quarry and risky terrain hinders the healthy development of children.
- During nights they are totally cut off from the city; transportation is very difficult.
- Health is very important for an individual and unless the health needs are met any other intervention will be of no use.

We commenced our medical relief programme in the month of October 2003 with a Doctor visiting the center twice a week. The whole community is availing these services and the mothers are receiving health education classes.

The following are our programmes :

Conducting health education programs on the following topics

- Maternal and Child Health
- Family Life Education
- Nutrition
- Occupational hazards

Out patient clinic

- Minor ailments of all age groups
- Medication and Monitoring for Diabetes and Hypertension
- Referrals to specialists
- Follow up and monitoring

Our future plans are to include the following services

- Antenatal Clinic
- Well Baby Clinic
- Under five Clinic
- Immunization
- Screening

Initiatives for the empowerment of women

As part of the community work Kaingkarya is instrumental in forming Self Help groups among women and providing support in the area of training and obtaining loan from banks to start small business and there by raising their standard of living We market the household products and the various jute products made by the various Self-Help Groups both in Thirusoolam and in the city by participating in exhibitions and sales organized by NGOs and Government bodies. These women are taught to market their products locally also.

Number of the SHG Members and their training details

Total No of SHGs	120
No. Of members who have undergone Entrepreneur Development training.	480
No of Members who have undergone Training in catering	15
No of Members who have undergone Training in Candle Making	300
No of Members who have undergone Training in Jute	150
No of Members who have undergone Training in Paper bags	250
No of Members who have undergone Training in Tailoring	100
No of Members who have undergone Training in computer	5
No of Members who have undergone Training in Beautician	15
No of Members who have undergone Training in Handicrafts	10

List of the SHGs who received Loan

S.N	Name of the SHG	Received Amount	Name of the Bank
1	Sri Munees waran	25,000.00	IOB Ashok Nagar
2	Angaleeswari	20,000.00	"
3	Abirami	7,000.00	"
4	Sri Murugan	25,000.00	"
5	Annai Marry	20,000.00	"
6	Om shakthi	10,000.00	"
7	Jasmine	20,000.00	"
8	Om Sakthi	20,000.00	"
9	Nethaji	20,000.00	IOB Ashok Nagar
10	Jathi malli	20,000.00	CC Bank
11	Malligai	28,000.00	"
12	Sampani	22,000.00	"
13	Roja	34,000.00	"
14	Narpavi	16,000.00	"
15	Atchaya	40,000.00	CC Bank

No of Beneficiaries is listed below

S.No	Programme	No of Beneficiaries
1	Tailoring	150
2	Jute	50
3	Computer	60
4	Nurse-Aid	90
5	Community Health worker	20
6	Sponsorship (Uniforms, Notebooks)	350
7	Education Assistants	160
8	EDP	480
9	Catering , Candle, Paper bags ,	50
10	Beautician, Handicrafts ,	10
11	SHG Members training	500
12	Animator and Representative Training	150

Our Donors

We deeply acknowledge the support and guidance received from the following well wishes and donors who have contributed a great deal to our accomplishment.

- Child Relief You
- ASHA for Education
- The Consulate of Japan
- ADRA Fund-Japan
- Give Foundation
- Concern India Foundation
- Technet Social Services
- IOB-Shakthi Trust
- CSIM (Centre of Social Initiative and Management)
- American Embassy
- Help to Live
- Inner wheel Club
- Ramakrishna Math