

BHARATHI TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 - 2009

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Our Sincere Thanks to...

**Bharathi Trust would like to express its sincere gratitude to,
HIVOS,
ASHA for education,
Foundation Roger Riou.,
Action Aid International,
Malteser International and
Quinoa,
TDH**

For their continued support and Irula constructive partnership for building up people's movement, educating the tribal children and Livelihood Support to the victims of Tsunami and flood affected community who were the most marginalized.

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Bharathi Trust since its inception has been working with Irula tribe in Thiruvallur, Vellore and Cuddalore districts with main focus of promoting and building up this communities as a collective forum, liaison with the government for obtaining schemes and programmes (patta land, group housing, hand pumps, joint cultivation etc.)

The Trust works intensively on human right-based issues to curb/check atrocities and discrimination against Irulas. Bharathi Trust is also involved in supporting their livelihood options as they had lost everything due to Tsunami. As the condition called for immediate intervention for sustainable livelihood rehabilitation of Irulas Bharathi Trust scaled up their work in Cuddalore district.

Goal of Bharathi Trust: “A Just and Equal Society”

Purpose of Projects undertaken: “Poor and disadvantaged sections of the society are empowered to realise their rights effectively and in a sustained manner”

The Trust feels proud to have associated with the development of the marginalised people and continues to work with them in the following programme areas,

Program Areas of Bharathi Trust are:

- Education for the Disadvantaged,
- Empowerment of Irula tribals who are marginalised.
- Releasing of bonded labourers and Rehabilitation through sustainable methods.

PART I – EDUCATION FOR DISADVANTAGED

Chennai Project - Education of the Disadvantaged **Report for the year 2008 - 09**

The activities during 2008-09 were focused on

(i) Awareness camps and training camps on Labour Rights for Unorganised Sector Workers, Sectoral Groups and Women Workers.

(ii) Seminars and Public Meetings on Central Legislation, impact of Globalization and Housing - Livelihood Rights.

(iii) Cultural Training and Jathas

(iv) Gender Justice Seminar

(v) Activist Training at Zonal and State Level for capacity building

The details of the Awareness Camps and Training Camps, Seminars, Public Meetings and Cultural Jathas, Training Program are listed in the Tables.

The Photographs, Press Clippings and Reports are appended.

Outcome and Future Activities:

The Awareness Training Camps, cultural activities and Public Meetings, Seminars etc have gone a long way to educate the Unorganised Sector Workers about the conditions, the laws and policies etc and to work towards policy changes and for realization of their rights.

In the face of threats to Livelihood and housing and Labour Rights due to Globalization and crisis, the conditions of Unorganised Workers in the various occupations have been affected in terms of Employment, Livelihoods and Housing, hence the organizing and Education of the Disadvantaged has to take further steps to achieve Labour - Livelihoods, Housing Rights and to work towards Socio - Economic Equality and Justice.

BHARATHI TRUST CHENNAI PROJECT

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 2006 TO MARCH 2007

1-Awareness Labour Rights

A. Awareness Camps

S. No	Date	Place	No of Participants		Out reach		Target Group	Subject
			M	F	M	F		
01.	7.04.08	Chennai	35	25	350	250	Unorganized Sector Workers	Social security , Functioning of Welfare Boards
02.	3.12.08	Chennai	50	40	500	400	Unorganized Sector Workers	Campaign for Central Bill on Unorganised Sector Workers and Amendments

B. Training Camps

Date	Place	No of Participants (M/ F)	Out reach M/ F	Target Group	Subject
11.7.08	Kovilpatti	100 / 50	1000 / 500	Construction Workers & Match Workers	Functions of State Labour Welfare Board and Amendments in Central Bill
14.7.08	Trichy	50 / 250	500 / 1500	Unorganised Workers	Functions of State Labour Welfare Board and Amendments in Central Bill
29.8.08	Chennai	150 / 200	1500 / 2000	Unorganised Sector Workers	Functions of State Labour Welfare Board and Amendments in Central Bill

C. Public Meetings (including cultural Jatha)

S. No	Date	Place	No of Participants		Out reach		Target Group	Subject
			M	F	M	F		
01.	1.5.08	Chennai	200	250	2000	2500	Unorganized Sector Workers	Labour Rights
02.	25.5.08	Thiruvallur	200	250	2000	2500	Unorganized Sector Workers	Tribal Rights & Labour Rights
03.	26.6.08	Chennai	150	300	1500	3000	Unorganized Sector Workers	Livelihood Rights Human Rights

04.	7.7.08	Chennai	150	200	1500	2000	Unorganized Sector Workers	Labour Rights Social security
05.	29.7.08	Chennai	100	200	1000	2000	Unorganized Sector Workers	Anti Liquor Prohibition

2-Policy Changes

A. State Level Seminar on Bonded Labour

Date	Place	No of Participants (M/ F)	Out reach M/ F	Participants	Subject
12.5.08	Chennai	150/300	1500/3000	Experts on Bonded Labour, Political Representatives, Officials and Irula Bonded Labour from Ricemills and bonded labour from Quarries, Brick Kilns, Powerlooms, Autolooms, Agriculture, etc.,	Government Policy on Survey, Release and Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers in Tamil Nadu

B. South Regional Seminar

Date	Place	No of Participants (M/ F)	Out reach M/ F	Participants	Subject
13.5.08	Chennai	100 / 50	1000 / 500	Unorganised Sector Representatives from various States, National Campaign Committee for Unorganised Sector Workers, Representatives of Welfare Boards	Central Bill on Un Workers and Rec

C. National Seminar On Unorganised Sector Workers

Date	Place	No of Participants (M/ F)	Out reach M/ F	Participants	
23.10.08	New Delhi	200 / 100	2000 / 1000	Representatives of Unorganised Sector Workers from 12 States	Central Bill on Un Workers and Rec

D. State Seminar on Unorganised Sector Workers

Date	Place	No of Participants (M/ F)	Out reach M/ F	Participants	
13.11.08	Chennai	150 / 250	1500 / 2500	Representatives of Unorganised Sector	Functioning of St Boards and Cent

				Workers from all over TamilNadu	Sector Workers
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E. National Seminar on Labour Rights

S. No	Date	Place	No of Participants		Out reach		Target Group	
			M	F	M	F		
01.	28.9.08	Raipur	500	300	5000	3000	Organized and Unorganized Sector Workers	Labour Rig Migrant Lab

3.Sectoral Issues

A. Awareness camps

S. No	Date	Place	No of Participants		Out reach		Target Group	Subject
			M	F	M	F		
01.	14.4.08	Villupuram	100	150	1000	1500	Quarry Workers	Livelihood Rights & Release of Bonded Labour
02.	19.8.08	Chennai	50	60	500	600	Street Vendors	Labour Rights, Livelihood Rights

B.Training Camps

S. No	Date	Place	No of Participants		Out reach		Target Group	Subject
			M	F	M	F		
01.	6.9.08	Chennai (State Level)	30	10	3000	1000	Rural Workers	Land Rights and Livelihood Rights
02.	14.9.08 & 13.9.08	Chennai (South Regional)	50	20	5000	2000	Rural Workers	Formation of Agricultural workers Union Land Distribution, welfare Board

C&D. Public Meetings (including cultural Jatha)

S. No	Date	Place	No of Participants		Out reach		Target Group	Subject
			M	F	M	F		
01.	18.5.08	Chenchi	200	100	2000	1000	Construction Workers	Labour Rights, Social Sec
02.	23.6.08	Kallakkurichi	100	100	1000	1000	Quarry Workers	Livelihood Rights, Bonded Liberation
06.	26.12.08	Ennore	25	100	250	1000	Fish and other Unorganised Workers	Tsunami Memorial
04.	26.12.08	Kasimedu	25	250	250	2500	Fish and other Unorganised Workers	Tsunami Memorial
05.	26.12.08	Mattankuppam	50	250	500	2500	Fish and other Unorganised	Tsunami Memorial and Liv

							Workers	Housing Rights
06.	26.12.08	Nochikuppam	45	100	450	1000	Fish and other Unorganised Workers	Tsunami Memorial and Liv Housing Rights
07.	26.12.08	Mullimanagar	30	200	300	2000	Fish and other Unorganised Workers	Tsunami Memorial and Liv Housing Rights
08.	26.12.08	Srinevasapuram	25	100	250	1000	Fish and other Unorganised Workers	Tsunami Memorial and Liv Housing Rights
09.	26.1.09	Chennai	100	150	1000	1500	construction workers	Constitutional Rights

4- Gender Justice Policy Intervention

A. Workshop on Women Domestic Workers

Date	Place	No of Participants (M/ F)	Out reach M/ F	Participants	Subject
22.10.08	New Delhi	5 / 30	500/3000	Domestic Workers Representatives from TamilNadu, Delhi, Jharkhand, Chettisgarh, Uttar Pradesh etc.,	Central Bill on Unorganised Sector Workers Separate Central Legislation on Domestic Workers

B. Seminar on CDP Women Workers

Date	Place	No of Participants (M/ F)	Out reach M/ F	Participants	Subject
2.1.09	Chennai	40 / 50	4000 / 5000	Representatives of Slum Dwellers from various parts of Chennai and Experts	City Development Plan under JNNURM and the requirements

C. NCW Seminar on Unorganised Sector Women Workers

Date	Place	No of Participants (Women)	Out reach (Women)	Participants	Subject
23.1.09	Chennai	350	10,000	Women Workers from Construction, Agriculture, Irula Bonded Labour from Rice mills, Sanitary, Domestic, Fish etc.,	Sectoral issues and functioning of Bo Central Acts and Changes required

5-Gender Justice Awareness

A. Awareness Camps

S. No	Date	Place	No of Participants (Women)	Out reach (Women)	Target Group	Subject
01.	22.6.08	Srivilluputhur	130	1300	Women Tailors	Labour Rights
02.	10.9.08	Chennai	60	600	Women Sanitary Workers	Human Rights

B-Training Camps

S. No	Date	Place	No of Participants (Women)	Out reach (Women)	Target Group	Subject
01.	18.6.08	Chennai	80	800	Women Sweepers	Labour Rights and Social Equality
02.	29.12.08	Chennai	120	1200	Women Workers	Land Rights and Livelihood Rights

C. Cultural Jatha & Public Meeting

Date	Place	No of Participants (Women)	Out reach Women	Participants	Subject
2.1.09	Kanchipuram	200	2000	Rural Workers	Land Rights and Livelihood Rights
20.8.08	Chennai	100	1000	Street Vendors	Livelihood Rights

6. Activist Training

A. State Level

S. No	Date	Place	No of Participants		Out reach		Target Group	Subject
			M	F	M	F		
01.	18.9.08	Chennai	20	10	2000	1000	Unorganised Sector Workers	Legal Rights and Union Rights

B. Zonal Level

S. No	Date	Place	No of Participants		Out reach		Target Group	Subject
			M	F	M	F		
01.	7.1.09	Chennai	20	30	2000	3000	Organizers and Representatives of Unorganised Sector Workers	Indian Constitution caste system patriarchy Global Economic Crisis

National Commission for Women Seminar on “Status of Unorganised Women Workers”

National Commission for Women’s Seminar on “Status of Unorganised Women Workers” was organised by the **Women’s Struggle Committee and Unorganised Workers Federation** on 23rd January, 2009 at YMCA Hall, Chennai.

Background:

The Unorganised Sector Employs over 40 Crores in India and 2 Crore workers in Tamil Nadu of which over 50% are women. This sector contributes 65% of the GDP and covers a wide range of occupations such as agriculture, construction, handlooms & power looms, dyeing, fisheries, poultry & animal husbandry, tea, coffee, rubber, cashew, plantation, processing, horticulture, sericulture, forests and allied activities, tree climbing, coir, home based work, vendors, handicrafts, services, shops & establishment, transport & allied, leather, tanning products, salt pans, small scale & cottage industries, domestic work, production & distribution of culture, art & media, loading & unloading in god sheds, yards, markets etc. The unorganized sector is neglected and unprotected thus bonded labour, child labour, exploitation of women labour, poverty and deprivation are widely prevalent. Also the processes of globalisation, liberalization and mechanization have led to invisible retrenchments, under employment, poverty and mal nutrition levels. Hence there is an urgent need for regulation of employment, conditions of service, social security and welfare of this vast unorganized sector in our country. A sizable section of workers are women, hence gender discrimination must be prevented and maternity entitlements, childcare ensured apart from preventing sexual harassment at workplaces. Also, there is a large number of self employed workers, at the mercy of traders and authorities, and being further marginalized facing starvation due to globalisation.

Many Welfare Boards have been constituted under Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Act 1982 but they function mainly to give doles and even for that financial basis not worked out except in the case of construction and auto Workers Welfare Boards. The administrative setup is weak and the registered women workers are facing negative and delayed responses for their claims.

National Commission for Women had in the last 10 years conducted many Public Hearings on Women Workers in various Sectors and brought out Reports and conducted Review meetings. Yet many of the Recommendations are yet to be implemented by the authorities.

Hence the Seminar was organized to bring to public attention not only the issues facing Women Workers but also to highlight the important remedial measures needed to be urgently undertaken by the State Government.

Proceedings of the Seminar:

Ms.R.Leelavathi, Co-ordinator, Women's Struggle Committee welcomed the participants.

The Seminar was presided by Dr.D.Gabriele,President of Pennurimai Iyakkam, in the presence of Dr.Neelavalli, Director of IWID. Ms.Nirmala Venkatesh, Member, National Commission for Women delivered the keynote address. Ms.kannagi Packianathan, Director of Adi Dravida Welfare, Representatives of various segments of Women Workers and Union representatives shared their experiences and views. It was participated by women workers in construction, domestic work, quarries, sanitary work, fisheries, Irular bonded labour in rice mills and brick kilns, beads work by Narikurava Tribals, street vending, salt pans, agriculture, handloom and forced labour of Thrurumbars. Testimonies of women workers were filled with agony of past and hope for a better future. The women workers also gave their petitions to Ms. Nirmala. Her presence ensured that the issues and concerns shared by the women workers and their demands would be taken to the State's attention.

Speech of Dr. D. Gabriele

Dr.D.Gabriele emphasized the historical moment in which this meeting was held. While the Central Government took pride in having passed a Central legislation on Dec.17, 2008 giving the impression of this being a major victory for the working class, the reality is very different. Not only has this legislation projected Social Security without safeguarding the Right to Work and regularisation of the work force, it has also divided the working class into APL and BPL, has brought private insurance instead of implementing ESI and has failed to makes funds available through collection of cess. The legislation has completely ignored the bill presented by NCC-USW and other movements with over 10 lakhs of signatures to the petitions committee of parliament on May 5th 2005. It has ignored the endorsement of the workers bill of the petitions committee in August 2006 and also the recommendation by the standing committee on labour. As a result of the ongoing assault on the struggle of the working class, there has been protracted attempt to dismantle the TN Manual Labourers Act of 1982, which served as a model for the draft bill of the NCC-USW. Since Feb.07 three G.O.'s were issued in Tamil Nadu aiming at winding up the functioning of the Labour Boards in Tamil Nadu and attempting to hand the responsibility over to the Revenue Department, which would be disastrous, leading to inefficiency and

corruption. Since Feb 2007, protracted struggle has been going on in Tamil Nadu to safeguard the Tamil Nadu Manual Labourers Act of 1982 and to implement the functioning of the Boards for different occupations. Only if decentralized Boards function at district and taluk levels, Trade Union rights and Women's rights can be safeguarded. Protection from sexual harassment requires functioning of complaints Committees.

It is crucial to raise these issues before the election campaign has started, as otherwise everything goes under in the din of promises. This Seminar comes as a follow-up of various public hearings of NCW together with Women's Struggle Committee, facilitated by Pennurimai Iyakkam and we trust that it will be a wake up call to implement earlier recommendations, to amend the miserable central legislation and to protect the Tamil Nadu Manual Labourers Act and the democratic participation of Trade Unions and Women's Organisations.

Key note address by Ms. Nirmala Venkatesh

Ms. Nirmala Venkatesh assured in the very beginning her commitment to take up the issues discussed in the forum to the Tamil Nadu Government, especially to the Chief Minister. Most Indian women work in the unorganised sector and it has to be noted that majority of the nation's economy constitutes the labor of this sector. Contribution of women workers in the economy should be recognized.

Ms. Nirmala Venkatesh, demanded a status report from the Tamil Nadu government on the functioning of the welfare boards constituted for members of the Unorganised Sector.

Ms. Nirmala Venkatesh said though it is commendable that the Tamil Nadu government had constituted multiple Welfare Boards under the Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Act, 1982, she would like to see a report on the current activity levels in the Boards and various constituents. Each Board must have its own source through cess funds and budgeting allocation and separate office in each district and taluk to provide easy access to Unorganised Women Workers and provision of benefits within one month of application, Ms. Nirmala Venkatesh.

Also, it is key to provide equal representation to women in the constitution of the Board, and this was not the case in the State, she charged. The role of the Board was not to merely disburse cash benefits, but also actively engage itself in regulation of employment, wages, and dispute resolution and constitute

committees to protect against the sexual harassment of Unorganised Women Workers.

The NCW member sought intervention in each and every group - Salt Pan Workers, Narikoravas, Irula Bonded Labourers, Fish Workers, Quarry Workers and Migrant Construction Labourers, among others. Stressing that a separate Welfare Board be formed for Salt Workers, she also insisted that the government should provide basic amenities at work and housing and medical facilities for them. Before handing over Salt Pan areas in Ennore and Athipattu regions in Tiruvallur District to power plants, the Government has the responsibility of providing employment for all the retrenched Salt Workers, she added.

All hawkers and vendors had a right to carry on their trade and should not be harassed for doing so. Ms. Nirmala Venkatesh expressed her anguish over street vendors harassed by the police and municipality. Police who should be protecting the street vendors, resort to violence and also demand bribes. She quoted her real life experience where she was able to protect the street vendors of Jai Nagar, Bangalore from the harassment of police by producing the Supreme Court ruling that allows vendors to sell their products in the pavements and in the street. She emphasized State's responsibility in protecting the street vendors. The other demands included registering property in the name of the women in the family, ensuring livelihood and housing rights without evictions.

Ms. Nirmala Venkatesh, also called for an amendment to the Centre's Unorganised Workers Social Security Bill 2007. The poverty line classification should be removed, she urged.

Ms. Venkatesh, recalled the enquiry she made in 2006 about sexual harassment of Sanitary Worker Rama Devi by conservancy inspector Thanikachalam but no action had been taken on the errant official. She also recalled the meeting with the then City Police Commissioner Ms. Latika Saran who promised to take action on SI Ganesen who indulged in sexual harassment on Women Sanitary Workers and NCW recommendation for making temporary Sanitary Workers of Police Department permanent.

Ms. Nirmala Venkatesh also stated that the National Commission for Women's would make appropriate recommendations to ensure the unorganized women workers' rights.

The experiences shared by the women workers during the seminar highlighted the concerns which have been lingering for a long time with no trace of stringent actions by the State.

Irular Bonded Labours in Rice Mills

Siddamma, organizer of Irula Bonded Labour in Tamil Nadu said, "Irula tribal community of Tamil Nadu have been forced into bonded labour in rice mills of Red hills area. Many families have been bonded labourers for nearly three generations repaying the so-called loan received by their grandparents which were indeed work advances. The bonded labourers are left to toil in putrid conditions. They worked for 18 hours a day with literally no wages, meager food, with no access to health facilities or education. Denial of right to expression, mobility and to form unions is a grave violation of human rights. Their children were also locked up inside the mills and have no access to education or outer world. The families are never allowed to go out; In emergency situations where someone ventured to go out, the rest of the family would be held hostages till the member returned. Those who attempted to escape will be beaten up mercilessly with cycle chains that'll be present near the gate. The women were refused access to health facilities for maternity and had to return to work as soon as the baby was born. Sexual harassment was also rife. Lack of access to health facility has led women to give birth to as many 6-7 children.

When Sarpam Irular Sangam staged an agitation, 1000 workers scaled the walls in Sep 2004. National Commission for Women's public hearing in Oct 2004 organized by Sarpam Irular Thozhilalar Sangam and Women's Struggle Committee resulted in ordering the release of bonded workers. However only 110 workers were given release certificates and the rest are still languishing. Of 110 families, only 70 families have been given pattas but the rest have not been given any housing assistance".

Ellamma, bonded labour who escaped from the rice mills says, *"Government announced 2 acres of land and patta for bonded labourers. While we still have not received the release certificate, how are we to get the land? When we ask the RDO or the thasildhar we get no proper response. Some threaten us while some say it was we who got the loan from the rice mill owners and we have to repay it by going back to rice mill."* These workers who have no release certificate are forced by fellow villagers to leave Palawakkam where the released bonded labourers have been stationed by the government. The government has to rehabilitate these bonded labourers who know nothing but domestic and rice mill work. The women work as agricultural labourers for Rs. 30-40 earning less than minimum wages. *"We were locked up in the mills for long. We don't know*

about hospitals and every family has 6-7 children. How're we to feed our children with the 20 Kg of rice that government provides? When it rains, the huts at Palawakkam get submerged. How are we to even light up fire let alone cook?! With no support from government, we're left alone to beg...borrow...or steal for our survival" says Nagammal, a bonded labourer who once worked in a rice mill in Red Hills. With women ready to take up rice mills as a cooperative, this would ensure their livelihood if Government paves way for it.

Bonded labourers in Brick Kilns :

The fate of bonded labours in brick kilns is no different. Meenakshi, Irular Woman from Vellore lost her livelihood when government officials restricted their use of timber from the forest on which many were dependent for their income. She turned to the owner of brick kiln for work advance However, the work advance was not depreciated even as they worked long. They were locked up and even when her son went missing, the couple was not allowed to go out to search for him. The owner ordered them to keep working and sent out only her cousin to look out for the boy. After long struggle when they reached the police station, the police themselves asked them to return to the rice mill to work. It was during this time that they complained to the RTO and escaped from the brick kiln, but not without toiling for 3 days and two nights.

The harassment at brick kilns goes unnoticed just like the bonded state of the workers. Easwari and her husband of Dharmapuri are still bonded labourers in a brick kiln. When her husband added extra water to the mixture used for making bricks, he was thrashed by the brick kiln owners. *"When I went to my husband's side, they tore my dress and beat me too. My husband's hand was fractured. With two children, we can't afford to stay a month in the hospital as suggested by doctors. Even during the one day we stayed in the hospital, we had nothing to eat. We went back to the brick kiln. We need government's help... We need freedom..."* says Easwari with terror filled eyes.

Bonded Labour in Quarries:

The bonded labour is rampant in stone quarries situation too. Men, women and children work in harsh climate without basic facilities like, rest shed, toilet or drinking water. In 1990s many stone quarry workers of Tamil Nadu were found in indentured labour in other states especially Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. More than 650 have not been given the release certificate. Some of these families were given release certificate and the Released Bonded Labour Society was given 5 hectare land in lease for quarries for their collective development. However they have not been given proper financial assistance

needed for paying lease amount or for purchasing tools. This has led to them being in bonded situation, this time with local money lenders who force the workers to sell the stone at a fixed rate in return for the loan. Reliance has been given quarries in Tamil Nadu leading to mechanization and quarry workers have no livelihood. Rekha of SV Palayam appeals, *"We know nothing but breaking stones for a living. The government should give the quarries to released Bonded Labour Societies like ours and provide release certificates to the 650 Bonded Labourers brought from Andhra Pradesh."* It is imperative to provide the workers with tools and working capital to run their own cooperatives.

Narikuravas

The tribal community of Narikuravas is a nomadic community who hunts and gathers in forests. Women are traditional expert bead makers and men are traditional hunters. Forced to settle in different parts of Tamil Nadu with deforestation and decreased access to forests, they live by selling beads, rag picking, and scrap picking.

They face constant discrimination from other communities because of their attire and language. Often they are refused access to public places, especially in the buses. The Narikuravas who had stayed near Poonamallee bus stand for past 50 years were evicted and had been relocated to a place which is a pond in Ambal Nagar. 52 Narikurava children who had been studying in the government school in Poonamallee are now unable to go to school due to forced eviction and lack of effective rehabilitation. Mariamma, Narikurava woman from Poonamallee says in an anguished voice, *"We all say women should get equal rights. We're women too. But where are our rights? Is our blood any different? We are not allowed to sell our wares in the Bus Stand. We're not allowed to stay in a place. They evicted us from the place where we had stayed for past 30 years and have pushed us to stay at a pond. We have to walk in water every day amidst swarms of mosquitoes. Should our children live or die??? Either let us live or kill us"*

In Tamil Nadu the Narikurava tribe is classified under Most Backward Caste while in other states they are considered as Scheduled Tribe. They're fighting to be considered as ST. Their children have no access to education. Though the men have licenses, the Forest Department is indiscriminately arresting them and women have become main bread winners. Women are not allowed to sell their beads in local market and face constant eviction from police. They are not given any loans and almost all avenues for earning their livelihood are blocked. With no specific welfare schemes aimed at them, many express hopelessness over their innumerable attempts to reach the government officials. Recognizing the

constant challenges they face, State should ensure livelihood options and more than everything their right to life.

Construction workers

Many of the women construction workers are migrant labours from other parts of the State or country such as Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand. Their children get no education as they travel with their mothers mostly. On site, there is no provision for child care healthcare or proper housing. Women are not provided proper toilet facilities as well. With the wages as low as Rs. 68 to 90 per day they struggle to make ends meet. Lakshmi, Ennore says, *"Most women construction workers are single, widowed or deserted. The paltry wage we get is not even sufficient to pay our rent."* Homelessness of Women Construction Workers need to be remedied.

Women construction workers are registered with Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board but the various benefits reach very late and many could not avail pension while board functions are being relegated to Revenue Department. Under the Central Acts on Construction workers, 1% cess should be collected but till date no cess is collected from Central Government projects and safety rules as per the Central Act are not being implemented.

Salt Pans

Chandrika, organizer of Salt Workers Said, "Women constitute about 40-50% of work force in salt production performing tasks such as preparation of bed, harvesting salt, transferring salt, salt packeting etc. Women's labour is often valued less than men's and women are not paid on par with men. Minimum wage has not been fixed for salt packeting in which women work primarily. They earn Rs. 30 – 50 after 8 hours of work. Basic amenities such as crèche, toilets, drinking water, rest rooms are not provided even though cess collected by Salt Department is to be used for provisions such as these. Salt cooperatives do not have women membership and with State Government's decision to stop new membership, no progress can be achieved on this. Transfer of salt pans for promotion of SEZ complexes, thermal power stations and other activities have destroyed the livelihood options of women workers in Ennore. With the little income they earlier got gone, they're left with no alternate job options. Those salt pan workers who had lost their jobs are not provided jobs in the power plant as well. This in turn forces them to migrate." The replacement of salt pans with power plants, has also affected the environment. Neela of Cheppaakam says, *"The number of lorries in the locality have increased but our job opportunities have decreased. Our whole village is covered with ashes due to power plant. Even our drinking water has ashes mixed in it."*

Domestic Workers

Valarmathi, organizer of Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers Union said, "Domestic workers are mostly women. NCW is working on a draft bill on Domestic Workers to curb exploitation and ensure protection and social security. State government is yet to fix the minimum wage for domestic workers. TN Domestic Workers Welfare Board functions are relegated to Revenue Department. The welfare board needs to constitute complaint committee to implement Vishaka judgement. However, the increasing number of sexual harassment cases is proof enough that we have a long way to go to ensure safe work environment for domestic workers". *"I worked for past 20 years for a family as domestic work. I was paid only Rs. 500 as salary every month. Now they have vacated and I'm left with no job. There's no security for us as we have no pension or any benefits"* says Narayani, a domestic worker.

Fisheries

Fishing in Tamil Nadu has been predominantly a male domain, while other aspects of fishing such as processing and vending has been done by women oriented. However women face a lot of discrimination in their livelihood. Public spaces which were once easily accessed by women are now under the control of municipalities, which do not allow women to use the space for vending in the name of Coastal Zone Management. Coastal Zone Management which has relocated many fishing communities to faraway places has resulted in fisher women having to travel long distances. Juliet organizer of Fisher Women says, *"We start our day as early as 2.00 am. With no refrigeration facilities, we've to sell the fish as early as possible. We face lot of problems in finding places for vending fish. By the time we reach home at late hours, the remaining fish goes stale and we fishing folk...can't even eat fish these days."*

During Tsunami Rehabilitation, the suggestion of National Commission for Women to provide relief in the name of women was not adhered to. Muthulakshmi, fisher woman says, *"Welfare boards are not functioning properly and the Panchayats are corrupt. Livelihood assistance for Tsunami relief reached only 100 out of 500. What will happen to the remaining 400? What're we to do?"*

The Government has formed Tamil Nadu Fish Workers Welfare Board under Fisheries Department. Earlier the Welfare Board functioned under Labor Department where women workers registered. With the transfer of the Welfare Board to Fisheries department, the earlier registrations are not being honored. In addition the registration is done by Panchayats which tend to ignore women. Even though women register, they are unable to avail the benefits. There is no representation of women in Welfare board. This shows that functioning of sector specific Welfare Boards under the Tamil Nadu Manual Labourers Act are the only functional option.

Handloom

In the context of globalization, handlooms have faced a severe crisis with the reduction in subsidies. Vellayamma, handloom worker from Kodiyampalayam says, *“The families in our village have been involved in handlooms for past 300 years. Nearly 5000 people are dependent on handlloms. However, the last decade, has seen a sharp decline n the industry forcing us to migrate. Men have gone to other states in search of Families are split and our children get no education. The poverty, rowdyism and corruption are on increase.”*

Numerous people dependent on handloom for survival are facing the threat of losing all the means to their livelihood. Cooperatives are male dominated leaving women workers' needs unmet. Women's participation in the cooperatives must be safeguarded.

Street Vendors

In the name of beautification of city, street vendors who're dependent on the little space along the roadside for their livelihood are chased constantly by the corporation and police. Women are the major workers in street vending and they constantly face harassment at the hands of police and corporation who often take bribes from them. Muniammal, a street vendor alleges, *“I have been a street venor for 40 years. But I have no proof I had my shop in that spot. Hence the corporation doesn't allow me to work there.”*

Mariammal a tribal basket weaver along with the 14 families of Ice House have been living in the pavement for past 30 years without any basic facilities. They are not allowed sell the baskets on the pavement near Parry's Corner. She alleges that they hadn't received any aid even though she was affected during Tsunami.

Even after repeated petitions, National Policy for street vendors with provisions for license, place, shops, credit and inclusive town vending committee is yet to be implemented. Ranganayaki, an aged street vendor was constantly harassed by the police. The police fined the woman repeatedly. Not only that, police also destroyed their wares and kicked with boots, liolating the Women's dignity and human rights. Ms. Nirnmala Venkatesh represented the case directly with the Esplanade police station and demanded for action.

Forced Labour of Thurumbars

`Thurumbars' are considered to be the lowest sub-sect in the hierarchy of Dalit caste groups in Tamil Nadu. Here, the dominant Dalits force them to do menial

jobs, at weddings and funerals which they detest doing for the caste Hindus. They have to be available to the villagers at all occasions. Only after they finish with the village caste chores, will they be allowed to attend to their own family needs and works. They can be beaten up. No one will come to rescue them. The status of their women can well be imagined. Ambica, Villupuram washes the clothes of Dalit families. When her family refused to carry on the chore, her 17 year old daughter whose leg was crippled, was subjected to sexual violence by a 40 year old man. He's now walking free and Ambica is fighting for justice for her daughter.

The Thurumbars are forced to live on the fringes of the Dalit colonies. The dominant Dalits do not permit them to live in clusters. Ambica's family is the only one of Thurumbars' family in her village and has none to support. No one stood by her even to fight the injustice committed on her daughter which shows the level to which women are discriminated. They need help to get a separate welfare board or recognition and rehabilitation as bonded labourers, including alternative livelihood. Their efforts to escape caste based discrimination by converting to Christianity also failed them- with Thurumbars not being exempted from caste duties even then.

Sanitary Workers

The working hours of the women sanitary workers proves to be a great problem for them. The present computerized system demands the women sanitary workers to enter their signature four times a day. This leads to repaired Committee, requiring a lot of time and expenditure. The long work hours keeps them away from their family and poses physical and emotional burden. *"Some of us leave home as early as 4.00 am to reach work place by 6 am. As we have to sign four times, we can't go anywhere and mostly we starve throughout the day. We leave work at 5.00 pm and by the time we reach home we're so tired. How're we to take care of our family and ourselves?"* says Masthanamma, corporation sanitary worker. Some women travel by at least 3 buses to reach their place of work. The computerized system which marks them absent even with in few minutes delay is another major concern for the sanitary workers. While workers under the Tricycle system work from 6.00 am till 1.00 pm, others stay back till 5.00 pm. They do not have even a resting place. During work hours if they meet with an accident there are no provisions for aid. It was put forth that gender discriminatory practices prevail in the administrative process

Women sanitary workers working in Police Department for 20 years are still receiving a meager salary of Rs. 900 per month. Even those who've been made permanent do not have GPF or pension. *"Our salary which was initially Rs. 60 / day has been reduced to Rs. 30 / day. What can we do with this meager amount*

with the current market rate? We receive no other benefits. Some of us have not received even the salary and are literally working free of cost for the government” says Muniammal, Sanitary worker in the Police Department. It is alleged that Ms. Fatima and Ms. Lakshmi working as sanitary workers in St. Thomas Mount Asst. Commissioner’s office and Ms. Mani working in the Nandambakkam police station have not received salary since July, 2008 till date.

Harassment by senior officials is another issue of concern. Ms. Ramadevi was subjected to sexual harassment by the then conservancy inspector Thanikachalam. While he admitted to have committed the crime during the earlier NCW inquiry led by Ms. Nirmala Venkatesh on which ordered for action against Thanikachalam, no action has been taken against him by Chennai Municipal Corporation till date. Instead he has been promoted which has led to further harassment by him on Santhoshamma. Impunity to such crimes is an alarming trend and has to be nipped in the bud.

Housing Rights

Denial of housing rights continues to be major problem for urban women workers in Chennai and outer areas who constitute the majority of slum and pavement dwellers who’re often from scheduled and backward castes. The women from Koodappakkam, Villivakkam, Sholingnallur and Kannagi Nagar continue to live in threat of eviction due to various projects. Mallika was relocated to Koodappakkam after living in Porur for 14 years. After having faced many struggles in her life, she got the land near Porur Lake. But when the land was vacated by the Government, she had to leave the land leaving behind all her properties.

Nagarathinam of Vattavadivu Nagar says nearly 100 families stay there since 1984. However they’re chased during the day time and stay in their huts only during night. She says, *“We have no toilet facilities and we suffer all through day time as there’re no hiding place too to relieve ourselves.”* The water is given by the corporation in a lorry during alternate days and women complain that the 8 pots of water are not sufficient to carry out two days’ chores. In most parts people face such a situation where even basic facilities are a big question mark.

While relocating people for various projects, they’re usually put up in spots distant from their work place. Villiamma of Adyar says, *“We have no proper water or drainage facility in our place. Half of the people in our locality were shifted to Semmanjcheri beyond 25 km from Chennai. They are now travelling long distance to reach their work place and have to spend Rs. 30 per person for travel alone.”*

Eviction affects mostly women and children who lose access to resources and education. They lose their livelihoods due to these forced evictions and rehabilitation in places far away from the city.

National Commission for Women puts forth the following recommendations:

1. The contribution of women workers in the economy must be recognized and their role ensured in Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Board, Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Welfare Boards, Tamil Nadu Agricultural Workers Welfare Board.
2. Though it is commendable that the Tamil Nadu Government has constituted multiple Welfare Boards under Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Act 1982, each Board must have its source through Cess funds and budgeting allocation and separate office in each District and Taluk to provide easy access to Unorganized Women Workers and provision of benefits within one month of application.
3. Women workers engaged in construction and other manual activities such as stone quarries, salt, agriculture etc. involved in hard physical labour are unable to continue their work beyond 50 years, hence the pension must be provided to them at the age of 50 years.
4. The Boards must not only provide cash benefits but also regulate employment and wages, constitute dispute resolution bodies to resolve disputes between employers and workers and implement non employment allowance, ESI and PF.
5. In order to implement Vishaka Judgement to prevent sexual harassment on Unorganized Women Workers, complaints committee on sexual harassment should be formed at District Level in all the sectoral Welfare Boards in which women are worker members.
6. The Central Government's Unorganized Workers Social Security Bill 2007 should be amended to remove the APL_BPL divide among the Women Workers and to create financial basis in terms of cess and budgetary allocations and to provide comprehensive protection in terms of employment and wage guarantees, prevention of Sexual harassment at

workplace, Bonded Labour and Child Labour as well as provision of ESI, adequate pension and non-employment allowance through Tripartite Sectoral Boards from Local Level to National Level for all Major Sector.

7. Minimum wages need to be fixed for domestic work, hand embroidery and salt packaging.
8. Migrant construction workers' families are in a pathetic condition and the bonded labour – child labour conditions need to be changed with educational facilities, child care and housing providing in these construction sites.
9. Homelessness of construction and other unorganized workers including pavement dwellers must be addressed with due consideration of their livelihoods.
10. Central Acts on Construction Workers in terms of safety rules and conditions of work such as basic amenities and minimum wages should be adhered to.
11. Women street vendors who continue to be harassed by Corporation and Police need protection, recognition as street vendors, spaces allotted to them and shops provided. National Policy on Street Vendors needs to be implemented in Tamil Nadu.
12. A separate registration system different from the licensing system should be established for street vendors. This will not only ensure their right to carry out their work but also help in getting the data about street vendors in the state.
13. The Narikuravas community should be brought under Scheduled Tribe category.
14. The Narikurava Women's livelihoods need protection and assistance and spaces allotted for their economic activities while housing and educational opportunities need to be provided in order to bring them up from poverty.

15. Irula bonded labourers who had scaled the walls to escape from atrocities were to be provided with release certificates as per the NCW public hearing on Irula bonded labour held in Tiruvallur in October 2004. The recommendations need to be implemented urgently and release certificates should be provided. Proper rehabilitation with housing, agricultural land and a cooperative rice mill of Irula women should be ensured.
16. The forced labour and violence on Thurumbar in villages need to be stopped forthwith by making a survey of their families and by implementing a comprehensive scheme of housing, education of children and provision of agricultural land to Thurumbar women.
17. Release certificates should be given to all released bonded labours and they have to be rehabilitated with required assistance. Released bonded labour societies and quarry women's groups need to be given quarries on a priority basis and financial assistance so that they could run their quarries.
18. Cooperatives of salt workers must enroll women members and financial assistance must be provided to make them viable. Minimum wages should be provided to women salt workers and a separate welfare board should be implemented in order to mitigate their sufferings.
19. Salt Department should provide basic amenities at work and housing and medical facilities should be availed to salt workers. Representation for women workers should be provided in Salt Department's advisory committee at both National and State level.
20. Before handing over salt lands to State Government in Ennore and Athipattu regions of Tiruvallur District for power plants and MPEZs, they have to ensure that all salt workers are provided with employment in the power plant.

21. Women Sanitary Workers need to be protected from occupational diseases through provision of Shoes, Gloves and Mask and provided ESI instead of private medical insurance.
22. Sanitary workers should be given security benefits at times of accidents.
23. It is shocking that even after NCW enquiry on sexual harassment of Thanikachalam on Rama Devi, Chennai Municipal Corporation did not punish but promoted him. This led to further harassment by him on Santhoshamma. Hence Chennai Municipal Corporation should immediately punish Thanikachalam.
24. The Women Sanitary Workers have to commute over long by distances for work after privatization and having to work twice a day leads to long hours of work and hence continuous work of 8 hours is the more human option.
25. The temporary Women Sanitary Workers of Police Department need to be made permanent without any delay. This is in accordance with the Recommendation of NCW Public Hearing held on 16-12-2004 and Review held on 23-12-2007.
26. Women fish workers need to be recognized as Fish Workers and their needs fulfilled in terms of space for vending, transport and credit facilities.
27. The livelihood and housing rights of coastal Women, fish and other Unorganized Workers need to be protected against evictions and in site housing should be provided.
28. Domestic workers should be ensured with minimum wages, job security, and social security. Domestic workers including migrant domestic workers and employers should be registered with the welfare board.
29. Slum evictions should be stopped since it deprives Unorganized Women Workers of their livelihoods and Children's education and instead

in site slum development in terms of fire proof housings and basic amenities provided.

30. In agriculture, the landless workers should be given 2 acres of Agricultural land in women's names.
31. Pucca housing should be provided to all rural and urban Unorganized Workers in women's names.
32. Resource Rights for Women and Gender Budgeting should be ensured in all departments of Central and State Governments.

Vote of Thanks

Ms.K.Gomathi, Secretary Women's Struggle Committee proposed vote of Thanks.

Seminar on Comprehensive Legislative Protection for Unorganized Sector Workers

A seminar was conducted on 13.05.2008 at Yeddapalli Hall, in Loyola College on comprehensive legislative protection for unorganized sector workers. The seminar organized by Unorganized Workers Federation focused on the Unorganized Sector Workers Social Security Bill that was introduced in Rajya Sabha last year and the aborted move by the State Government to transfer the functions of Labour Welfare Boards from Labour Department to Revenue Department.

Ms. Leelavathi, State Secretary of Unorganized Workers Federation welcomed the delegates to the seminar. The morning session on Unorganized Sector Workers Social Security Bill 2007 was chaired by Ms. T.S. Sankaran (Retd. I.A.S), Former Additional Labour Secretary in Central Government. Mr. Subhash Bhatnagar, Coordinator of National Campaign Committee for Unorganized Sector Workers New Delhi, Prof. Shanmuga Velayudham, Mr. Sema Narayanan, President of Tamilnadu Pottery Workers Welfare Board and other trade unions representatives shared their views on a comprehensive legislature for unorganized sector workers including regulation of employment - wage, dispute handling mechanism, E.S.I and sexual harassment committee.

The afternoon session focused on the need for administrative infrastructure, finance source mechanism, regulation of employment - wage to remove the existing bottlenecks in the effective implementation of Tamilnadu Manual Workers Act, 1982. , Mr. Kiran from Jeevika (Karnataka), Mr. Prakash from Nirman Mazdoor Panchayat Union (Karnataka), Mr. Eashwar from Nirman Mazdoor Panchayat Union (New Delhi), Mr. Raman, Member of Advisory Committee under Tamilnadu Manual Workers Act, Dr. Gabriella from National Alliance of Peoples Movements shared their views.

The following resolutions were passed in the seminar.

1. All trade unions in different districts will meet with and mobilize their Members of Parliaments to speak against the Unorganized Sector Workers Social Security Bill 2007 which includes already existing schemes such as pension etc and calls for implementation through District Administration without the participation of trade unions and does not include employment - wage regulation and to call for a comprehensive legislative protection for unorganized sector workers.
2. Demonstrations will be held on the first day of monsoon session of the Parliament in front of Governor's house in different states demanding for changes in the proposed bill based on the report of Standing Committee, role for trade unions, appropriate fund source identification, administrative infrastructure setup, sectoral boards etc similar to the model bill that has

been prepared by National Campaign Committee for Unorganized Sector Workers.

3. Government Order 23 dated 04.03.2008 which transfers the functions of Labour Welfare Boards under Tamilnadu Manual Workers Act 1982 from Labour Department to Revenue Department should be cancelled.
4. The representatives thanked all those trade unions, individuals, political parties and National Campaign Committee for Unorganized Sector Workers that have and continue to fight for the rights and welfare of Unorganized Sector Workers.
5. The representatives thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister for announcing that Labour Welfare Boards will continue to function under Labour Department. It was decided that a petition will be submitted to Chief Minister to implement his promise of inviting the trade unions for discussion on this issue and to include independent trade unions and Unorganized Workers Federation in the proposed discussion.
6. The current representation in Advisory Committee under Tamilnadu Manual Workers Act should be changed with 50% representation for representatives of workers, adequate women members representation, inclusion of independent trade unions.
7. Street corner meetings and district level seminars will be held through out June to mobilize the workers and organize struggles on the functions of Unorganized Sector Labour Welfare Boards, need for adequate fund source from Central and State Government and levy collection, administrative infrastructure, taluk level labour offices, employment - wage regulation, sectoral boards under Tamilnadu Manual Workers Act.

Mr. I.P.Moorthy, State Treasurer of Unorganized Workers Federation thanked the delegates for their participation in the seminar.

Report on National Study of Bonded Labour & Migrant Labour

The Study of Bonded Labour (Traditional and New Forms) as well as of Migrant Labour has been initiated from December 2008 in the following States and Major Cities:

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Greater Chennai
3. Pondicherry
4. Karnataka
5. Kerala
6. Andhra Pradesh
7. Maharashtra
8. Greater Mumbai
9. Gujarat
10. Rajasthan
11. National Capital Region of Delhi
12. Haryana
13. Punjab
14. Uttar Pradesh
15. Madhya Pradesh
16. Chattisgarh
17. Orissa
18. Jharkhand
19. Bihar
20. West Bengal
21. Assam
22. Tripura

The study was planned in National meetings held in December 2008, in Nagpur in January 2009 and in New Delhi in February 2009.

The data have been collected from groups of 30 workers (each sector per area) using Individual Questionnaire and Focused Group Discussion method. Also, case studies and interviews with officials are being conducted. In every State 200 - 300 Bonded Labour / Migrant Labour are being surveyed.

Zonal meetings are being held in June 2009 to review the progress of the study. (Southern Region - Bangalore - 15.6.09, Northern Region - Delhi - 27.6.09, Eastern Region - Kolkata - 29.6.09)

The data collection is almost over and the State Level Reports would be ready by end of July and National Level Report (Comparative Study) would be released by in August - September 2009.

RESOURCES ENSURED FOR AFFECTED SALTPAN WORKERS

Status Report (Apr '08 – Mar '09)

Overall Update

Bharathi Trust in association with TDH(SRO) Germany initiated activities since the second quarter of 2008 in 5 regions along the Coastal Tamil Nadu where salt production is one of the major employment to unorganized sector workers on resource and livelihood rights entitlement for affected salt pan workers. These regions and the workers have been affected adversely due to tsunami which hit coastal Tamil Nadu in December 2004. Having lost lives and properties, they have picked up their life with the help of various agencies and are engaged in the laborious salt production activities to sustain their lives.

Majority of the salt pan lands in Tamil Nadu belong to Central and State Government with very small private lands owned by small producers especially in Vedaranyam and Tuticorin engage in the salt production. In Tuticorin, there are also small tracts of Panchayat land being leased to women producers and families. It is estimated that about 60000 acres of land are used in salt production with about 1/3rd of the land owned by Salt Department under Central Ministry of Industries and Commerce. The State Government owned lands are managed by Revenue Department under District Administration. In the context of neoliberal policies, the salt production has suffered with salt pan lands diverted for other purposes including thermal power stations and SEZ etc. Many kinds of production models are seen in the sector ranging from small family operations over 1 to 10 acres to companies operating on thousands of acres. Several cooperatives have also been initiated but several have failed without enough financial investment.

In 2008, salt production started in the usual time frame of January mid. With in 2 months of season start, when all the beds had been prepared and production had been initiated, a unseasonal spell of rains in March-April time frame devastated the salt pans resulting in loss of livelihood for salt pan labourers and small producers. In later part of 2008 due to increased price rice, salt price also increased from a normal range of 600-1200Rs per ton to 2000-2500Rs per ton making it a profitable year for producers. The cyclone Nisha has also devastated the salt pan labourers especially in Vedaranyam and Marakkanam which faced heavy rains and wind. In 2009 too, production preparation has been difficult due to unseasonal rains.

The minimum wage for salt pan labourers has been fixed starting at Rs79 with a dearness allowance of Rs22 fixed on April 2008. While minimum wage is not paid for large section of workers especially in Tuticorin and Vedaranyam, women are often paid less. With the increase of all commodities in later half of 2008, the salt pan labourers have faced difficulties in making ends to meet.

Ennore

There was an estimate of 5000 acres of land in Ennore. In 1993 and subsequently in 2007, all the salt pan lands have been transferred for setting up thermal plants, desalination plant, harbour and multiple purpose SEZ. All the labourers estimated to be around 3000-5000 have lost their livelihood with no alternate livelihood options provided. While salt production is continuing on a very small acreage in Kattur region, the bulk of salt production has been stopped in the region depriving a major source of livelihood for the poor in the area.

Kovalam

About 500-800 acres of land are under production under two companies in this region. Most of the production is done with migrant labour from Tuticorin, Vedaranyam and Orissa. Less than 50 workers from the region operate in the salt pans. Three cooperative societies in the region are not operational with one of the leases under dispute.

Marakkanam

About 2200 acres of land are under production. Most of the salt production is done through small producers who lease land from original lease holders at several levels of subleases. Salt production is one of the major employments provided in the region. The wage in 2008 ranged from 100-120Rs per day for male workers and 50-70Rs per day for women workers and is at Rs150 for men and Rs75 for women. There is one cooperative society operational in the region. The cooperative society has struggled to survive due to mismanagement several years ago and is currently trying to get back on its feet.

Vedaranyam

Vedaranyam is the second biggest region of salt production in Tamil Nadu with about 10000 acres in production employing an estimate of 10000 workers in the region. Wages seem to differ in different areas depending on whether the worker gets engaged in small production sites or family owned sites versus big companies with small sites usually paying more wages than big companies. Typically wage ranges from Rs150 per couple per day to 120Rs a day per person.

Tuticorin

Tuticorin is the biggest region of salt production in Tamil Nadu with an estimate of 40000 acres in production. Wage for 2008 was determined through bilateral agreements between unions and employer associations at Rs105 for male workers and Rs95 for women workers. As this was insufficient to meet the basic necessities, demands were made to increase the wages and has been negotiated at Rs155 for men and Rs145 for women.

Activities

Awareness Camps and meetings on rights of salt pan workers

S.No	Date	Place	Participants	Subject
1.	01.Jun.2008	Marakkanam	~90	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tamilnadu Manual Workers Welfare Board and its benefits.- Salt Department's Namak Mazdoor Awaaz Yojana and Child Reward Scheme
2.	05.Jun.2008	Tuticorin (Keelvaipar)	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tamilnadu Manual Workers Welfare Board and its benefits.- Salt Department's Namak Mazdoor Awaaz Yojana and Child Reward Scheme- Livelihood issues of small producers
3.	21.Jun.2008	Marakkanam (Kaipani, Cooperative Society)	~60	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tamilnadu Manual Workers Welfare Board and its benefits.- Salt Department's Namak Mazdoor Awaaz Yojana and Child Reward Scheme
4.	01.Jul.08	Vedaranyam (Poovanthoppu)	97	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tamilnadu Manual Workers Welfare Board and its benefits.- Central Government's Unorganized Sector Workers Social Security Bill 2007 and its shortcomings- Minimum Wage Notification and its impact- Livelihood security in salt industry- Salt Department's Namak Mazdoor Awaaz Yojana and Child Reward Scheme
5.	23.Aug.2008	Ennore (Athipattu)	103	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Deprivation of livelihood for salt pan workers in Ennore Region
6.	07.Sep.2008	Marakkanam	89	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tamilnadu Manual Workers Welfare Board and its benefits.- Central Government's Unorganized Sector Workers Social Security Bill 2007 and its shortcomings- Minimum Wage Notification and its impact- Livelihood security in salt

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - industry - Salt Department's Namak Mazdoor Awaaz Yojana and Child Reward Scheme
7.	12.Oct.2008	Vedaranyam	~120	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tamilnadu Manual Workers Welfare Board and its benefits. - Central Government's Unorganized Sector Workers Social Security Bill 2007 and its shortcomings - Minimum Wage Notification and its impact - Livelihood security in salt industry - Salt Department's Namak Mazdoor Awaaz Yojana and Child Reward Scheme
8.	07.Dec.2008	Ennore	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eye camp through Sankara Nethralaya conducted - Tamilnadu Manual Workers Welfare Board and its benefits. - Special Economic Zones and its impact - Issues related to local livelihood
9.	22.Dec.2008	Vedaranyam	~150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum Wages Act and its relevance to salt pan workers - Current Minimum Wage Notification for salt pan workers - Livelihood security in salt industry
10	24.Jan.2009	Tuticorin (Periyasamipuram)	~60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum Wages Act and its relevance to salt pan workers - Current Minimum Wage Notification for salt pan workers - Tamilnadu Manual Workers Welfare Board and its benefits - Salt Department Benefits - Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Act
11	25.Jan.2009	Tuticorin (Mudukkukadu)	~50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum Wages Act and its relevance to salt pan workers

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current Minimum Wage Notification for salt pan workers - Tamilnadu Manual Workers Welfare Board and its benefits - Salt Department Benefits - Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Act
12	25.03.09	Chennai	~30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special Economic Zone Act and its impact on salt pan workers
13	27.03.09	Tuticorin (Vaipar)	~60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tamilnadu Manual Workers Welfare Board and its benefits - Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Act
14	30.03.09	Ennore (Athipattu)	~150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special Economic Zone Act and its impact on salt pan workers - Tamilnadu Manual Workers Welfare Board and its benefits - Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Act

Livelihood options for the salt pan workers

Program 1: Marakkanam Adi Dravidar Salt Production Society is one of the oldest functioning cooperative society in Marakkanam started in 1938. The society has over 200 acres of salt land but is operating only 100 acres due to insufficient capital. The society has about 250 members all men from scheduled Castes. In 2009 about 100 workers were getting employment operating about 100 acres of land. The society workers requested grant of 6.5 lakhs to construct 4 borewells, install engines and setup electrical connection to the engines. Three borewells have been setup at 93 feet , 75 feet and 70 feet respectively and the fourth borewell is being installed. Requisitions have been made to setup electrical connection.

Program 2: Kovalam Adi Dravidar Salt Producers Society has about 69 acres of land with about 60 members. Since Tsunami, the society has not been able to operate due to lack of funds to restore the salt pans and has become in-operational. A budget of 13 lakhs was allotted to restore the salt pans and start production in the area. Currently about 15 salt producers have enrolled and restoration work is going on 20 salt lands. The work involved creating a bank

around the salt pan, desilting the pan, creating the pans, preparing the beds, desilting the canal and wells. Due to rains and lack of confidence, work started later than usual. As crab nets have also lodged into the pans, the land had to be ploughed to start the work. Around 100-150 workers are engaged in restoring the salt pans.

Research and documentation on pre & post tsunami situation of salt pan workers

- 100% survey completed in Tuticorin
- 60% survey completed in Ennore
- Survey completed in Marakkanam. Report titled 'Living and Working Conditions of Salt Pan Workers in Marakkanam, Villupuram' was published and released.

Sensitizing the government on resources rights of salt pan workers in pre & post disaster

- A district level seminar 'Living and Working Conditions of Salt Pan Workers in Marakkanam' was conducted on 26.03.09 at Marakkanam. About 460 women and men salt workers participated in the seminar. The problems of the workers was highlighted by representatives Mr. Ettian and Ms. Radha. Mr. Meshram, Salt Superintendent of Cuddalore and Mr. Elango Deputy Salt Superintendent, Marakkanam participated in the seminar and highlighted the benefits to salt pan workers provided by Salt Department and gave an overview of the extension of the reach of these benefits to workers in the region. The issue of impediments to effectively using the programs were discussed in depth as well. A report 'Living and Working Conditions of Salt Pan Workers in Marakkanam, Villupuram District' was released in both Tamil and English.
- A district level seminar 'Unorganised Women Workers's Conditions' was conducted on 28.03.09 at Thiruporur near Kovalam. About 430 women workers including salt pan workers participated in the seminar. The working and living conditions of the workers were highlighted by community representatives. A working committee was formed to address the issues highlighted by workers.
- A seminar was conducted on the status of female unorganized sector workers particularly salt pan workers and fish workers in Tuticorin on 11.07.08 along with Assistance Salt Commissioner for Tuticorin and department officials. The issues of women salt pan workers particularly lack of amenities at worksite, unequal pay and impediments in accessing schemes of governments were

highlighted. Presented a memorandum to Assistant Salt Commissioner with respect to this.

- Representations were made to Deputy Commissioner of Salt Department, Chennai, Salt Commissioner, Jaipur, Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu, Industries Department Secretary of Tamil Nadu and Thiruvallur District Collector with respect to deprivation of resource rights for Ennore salt pan workers. About 100 pension forms have been submitted to the collector for the aged salt pan workers who have not enrolled in Labour Welfare Boards. Self help groups are also being formed in the area of workers and workers' children to promote alternate livelihoods with the help of District Administration.

Results

- * About 300 labourers from Marakkanam have enrolled in the Labour Welfare Board to realize the social security benefits under Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Act,1982.
- * About 275 labourers from Vedaranyam have applied for registration in the Labour Welfare Board to realize the social security benefits under Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Act,1982. An additional 150 labourers are in the process of application.
- * About 45 labourers from Tuticorin have applied for registration in the Labour Welfare Board to realize the social security benefits under Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Act,1982. An additional 50 labourers are in the process of application.
- * About 250 labourers from Vedaranyam impacted from cyclone Nisha are in the process of applying for assistance under housing scheme of Salt Department's Namak Mazdoor Awaaz Yojana.
- * About 200 workers from Marakkanam are benefitting from the installation of borewells for continuous brine water supply to 200 acres of salt pans under Marakkanam Adi Dravidar Society.
- * About 15 small salt producers in Kovalam Adi Dravidar Society are restarting their salt production after Tsunami. Thousands of labour days of work are being generated for the local community through this rejuvenation effort.
- * About 250 labourers from Ennore have applied to State Department and Salt Department for alternate livelihood. The Salt Department has issued a letter of recommendation based on the petition to the Salt Department.

Report of Survey - Awareness - Skill Training Project April 2008 - March 2009

1. Background:

The year was marked by new difficulties faced by Unorganised Workers in the face of relegating Welfare Board functions to Revenue Department and setting up of composite office for 14 Welfare Boards at the District Level and other changes creating further difficulties for registration and securing benefits.

Also livelihood rights of Coastal Fisher Workers, Urban Slum Dwellers and Street Vendors are being challenged in the face of Urban Development program such as Coastal elevated highway and elevated highways in Chennai.

The awareness programs on Social Security through Welfare Boards, Livelihood Rights and Housing Rights were provided in Awareness Camps and Skill Training in Construction - Masonary Paper Products and Food Products provided through the project.

2. Awareness Programs:

The Awareness Program on the issues relating to Labour Rights with respect to Employment, Accidents, Compensation, Safety, Social Security measures through Welfare Boards, Livelihood and Housing Rights were conducted in the following Districts:

1. Madurai
2. Trichy
3. Cuddalore
4. Villuppuram
5. Kanchipuram
6. Tiruvallur
7. Chennai

The details of the awareness programs are set out in the enclosed Tables.

The Workers covered include Construction, Agriculture, Sanitary, Handloom, Street Vendors, Fish, Handicrafts, Quarry and Forest Workers.

Narikkurava Tribals, Irual Tribals and Construction Workers held separate camps as stated in the separate tables.

3. Skill Training:

A. Skill Training in masonry skill was imparted to 10 women in Madurai for 25 days and they were trained in brick laying and plastering work in the process of building the office of the Organisation.

B. Skill Training in masonry conducted in Killai for 15 women to complete the toilet of Eco - Friendly Paper Products Units set up by Annie Besant Coastal Women's Federation. Half the training fund for Chennai was spent in Killai.

C. Members of Annai Theresa Coastal Women's Federation were provided with Skill Training in

(i) use of Cutting Machines in ECO Friendly Paper Products.

(ii) making of Hand made Files out of ECO Friendly Paper Boards.

D. Members of Women SHGs in Attipattu and Ennore were given Skill Training in making of Hand Made Files out of ECO Friendly Paper Boards.

E. Members of Women SHGs in Attipattu Pudu Nagar were given Skill Training in Food Products - Squashes and Juices, Snacks and Jams etc.,
Survey:

The Survey activity is being planned for 2009-10

Outcome and Future Activities:

The Awareness Camps held in the 7 Districts among Unorganised Sector Workers - Construction Workers, Irula Tribal, Agricultural and Forest Workers, Narikkurava Tribal, Handicraft Workers, Fish Workers, Sanitary Workers, Domestic Workers, Handloom Workers, Street Vendors etc have helped in

educating these Workers about the relevant laws, Livelihood Rights, Labour Rights and Social Security.

The Skill Training has helped the women in acquisition of Skills in Construction, File Making, Paper Boards and Food Products.

In the context of Global Economic crisis and rising prices, the working and living conditions and deteriorating and there's now greater need is to create awareness and collections action to face the challenges and create economic empowerment of women.

Survey - Awareness - Skill Training Project 2008-2009

Awareness Camps

Chennai

S.No	Date	Target Group	No of Participants M / F	Outreach M/F	Subject
1.	7.5.08	Sanitary Workers	0/50	0/500	Labour Rights, Livelihood Rights
2.	20.7.08	Street vendors	20/30	200/300	Livelihood Rights
3.	2.8.08	Construction Workers	30/40	300/400	Social Security
4.	3.10.08	Women Fish Workers in Pazhavarkadu (SHGs)	0/70	0/700	Co-operative Production, Principles and Organisation
5	15.10.08	Women Fish Workers in Pazhavarkadu (SHGs)	0/70	0/700	Co-operative Production, Principles and Organisation
6	21.11.08	Unorganised Sector Workers	80/50	800/500	Functioning of Welfare Boards & Government Orders
7	18.12.08	Unorganised Sector Workers	30/40	300/400	Central Bill on Unorganised Workers
8	27.12.08	Unorganised Sector Workers	30/20	300/200	Labour Rights, Social Security and Legal Production
9	20.1.09	Street vendors	100/60	1000/600	Livelihood Rights & Social Security
10	2.2.09	Chennai Construction Workers	120/50	1200/1500	Accidents, Safety, Compensation, Wages, Migrant Labour & Social Security
11	11.2.09	Unorganised Sector Workers	80/50	800/500	Social Security & Legal Production
12	5.3.09	Unorganised Sector Workers	100/50	1000/500	Labour Rights, Allocation for Welfare Boards
13	7.3.09	Unorganised Sector Workers	40/30	400/300	Labour Rights, Social Security & Livelihood Rights
14	10.3.09	Unorganised Sector Workers	50/30	500/300	Labour Rights, Social Security & Livelihood

					Rights
15	16.3.09	Unorganised Sector Workers	30/20	300/200	Labour Rights, Social Security & Livelihood Rights
16	27.3.09	Construction Workers in Vadapalani, Chinmayanagar	100/80	1000/800	Labour Rights, Housing Rights and Social Security
17	28.3.09	Domestic Workers in Raja Annamalaipuram	0/120	0/1200	Labour Rights, Housing Rights and Social Security
18	29.3.09	Fish Workers in Nochikuppam & Srinivasapuram	40/150	400/1500	Labour Rights, Housing Rights and Social Security

Trichy

Awareness Camps

S.No	Date	Target Group	No. of Participants		Out reach		Subject
			M	F	M	F	
1.	13.7.08	Unorganised Workers	50	35	500	350	Central Bill in Unorganised Sector Workers
2.	1.12.08	Unorganised Workers	45	25	450	250	Functioning of Welfare Boards
3.	30.1.09	Manual Workers	35	20	350	200	Labour Rights and Social Security
4.	7.2.09	Handloom Weavers	0	60	0	600	Livelihood Rights & Food Security
5.	7.3.09	Unorganised Workers	50	25	500	250	Labour Rights and Social Security
6.	29.3.09	Unorganised Workers	40	30	400	300	Labour Rights and Globalisation

Madurai

Awareness Camps

S.No	Date	Target Group	No. of Participants		Out reach		Subject
			M	F	M	F	
1.	1.5.08	Unorganised Sector Workers	90	65	900	650	Labour Rights and Cultural Program
2.	18.7.08	Women Workers		90		900	Prohibition & Violence on Women
3.	11.8.08	Agricultural Workers	30	40	300	400	Globalization and Land Rights
4.	1.12.08	Women Workers		80		800	Personal Laws and Women's Rights
5.	10.1.09	Unorganised Sector Workers (Handloom Weavers, Home Based Workers)	120	70	1200	700	Central Bill on Unorganised Workers and Amendments
6.	8.3.09	Women Workers		50		500	Issues of Women Workers and Women's Rights

Kanchipuram

Awareness Camps

S.No	Date	Target Group	No. of Participants		Out reach		Subject
			M	F	M	F	
1.	16.8.08	Construction , Migrant Workers (Thiruporur)	60/20		600/200		Labour Rights
2.	10.9.08	Migrant Labour (Thiruporur)	20/100		200/1000		Livelihood Rights, Food Security and Social Security
3.	17.10.08	Narukuravars (Sriperumputhur)	50/ 50		500/500		Housing Rights & Human Rights
4.	19.12.08	Narukuravas (Pallavaram)	30/20		300/200		Tribal Issues Welfare Board Human Rights
5.	2.1.09	Unorganised Workers in Manapakkam	150/150		1500/1500		Land Rights, Housing Rights & Livelihood Rights

		(Handloom Weavers, Construction Workers)			
6.	24.3.09	Unorganised Workers in Chengalpattu (Agriculture Workers Fish Workers, Construction Workers)	20/100	200/1000	Labour Rights and Social Security

Cuddalore

Awareness Camps

S.No	Date	Target Group	No. of Participants		Out reach		Subject
			M	F	M	F	
1	11.4.08	Women Fish Workers (SHGs)	-	60	-	600	Co-operative Production of ECO - Friendly Paper Products, Principles and Organisation
2.	10.08.08	Women Fish workers (SHGs)	-	70	-	700	Co-operative Production of ECO - Friendly Paper Products, Principles and Organisation
3.	9.1.09	Irulas	120	150	120 0	150 0	Tribal Rights, Housing Rights, Land Rights

Awareness Camps for Narikkurava Tribals in 7 Districts

S.No	Date	Districts	No. of Participants		Out reach		Subject
			M	F	M	F	
1.	12.4.08	Cuddalore	40	35	400 / 350		Welfare boards and rights
2.	13.10.08	Krishnagiri	40	35	400/350		Tribal Issues Welfare Board Human Rights
3.	17.11.08	Thiruvallore (Poonamalli)	40	20	400/200		Tribal Issues Welfare Board Human Rights
4.	21.1.09	Coimbatore	40	20	400/200		Tribal Issues Welfare Board Human Rights
5.	22.2.09	Villupuram	40	20	400/200		Tribal Issues Welfare Board

						Human Rights
6.	27.3.09	Thiruvannamalai	40	35	400/350	Tribal Issues Welfare Board Human Rights

Awareness Camps for Construction Workers

S.No	Date	Target Group	No. of Participants		Out reach		Subject
			M	F	M	F	
1.	28.8.08	Chennai Construction Workers	100/60		1000/600		Accidents, Compensation, Social Security and Safety
2.	20.9.08	Construction Workers in Pallipattu (Thiruvallur District)	70	30	700 / 300		Social Security and Welfare Boards
3.	24.11.08	Quarry Workers in Kallachurichi (Villupuram District)	80	60	800/600		Livelihood Rights, Bonded Labour Release Certificate, Social Security
4	22.2.09	Villupuram Construction Workers	60	40	600/400		Accidents, Compensation, Welfare Boards and Social Security
5.	28.3.09	Krishnagiri Construction Workers	40	30	400/300		Accidents, Compensation, Welfare Boards and Social Security
6.	29.3.09	Trichy Construction Workers	80	50	800/500		Accidents, Compensation, Welfare Boards and Social Security

Awareness Camps for Irulas in 3 Districts

S.No	Date	Target Group	No. of Participants		Out reach		Subject
			M	F	M	F	
1	19.9.08	Tiruttani (Thiruvallur District)	50	20	500	200	Housing Rights & Welfare Boards
2	10.10.08	Pallipattu (Thiruvallur District)	30	20	300	200	Housing Rights & Welfare Boards
3.	15.11.0	Thiruvallur	60	40	600	400	Housing Rights & Welfare

	8	(Thiruvallur District)				0	Boards
4.	25.12.08	Chidambaram (Cuddalore District)	10 0	60 0	100 0	60 0	Land Rights & Welfare Boards
5.	9.1.09	Vellore District	30	25	300	25 0	Tribal Rights, Welfare Boards
6.	3.2.09	Thiruvallur (Thiruvallur District)	50	20	500	20 0	Housing Rights & Welfare Boards

Capacity Building Workshops

S.No	Date	Target Group	No. of Participants		Out reach		Subject
			M	F	M	F	
1	7.11.08	Organizers and Representatives of Unorganised Sector Workers	20	30	200 0	300 0	Indian Constitution caste system and patriarchy Global Economic Crisis
2.	6.1.09	Organizers and Representatives of Unorganised Sector Workers	20	30	200 0	300 0	Central Act on Unorganised Sector Workers, Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Act and Government Orders

Part II – Empowerment of Irulas:

1. Awareness Camps

The Irula community stands at a disadvantage compared to the other communities. Sarpam conducted meeting at regular intervals to create awareness among the Irulas and procedure for their upliftment. These included education of their children, Improvement of their general health and hygiene and making them aware of the various government schemes brought out from time to time for their community development and improvement. It also addressed various social problems like dowry, inequality in wages, property rights, child labour and problem of drinking amongst the men folk were explained. The participants were informed of the need to form a sangam and be united to face and solve their problems.

Details of Awareness camps:

Name of District	Name of Taluk	Camp Date	No. Of Participants		Out Reach	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
Cuddalore	Chidambaram	06.06.08	70	90	150	155
Vellore	Gudiattam	16.07.08	80	135	160	185
Vellore	Katpadi,	27.08.08	60	95	250	350
Vellore	Vellore	23.10.08	75	90	350	400
Vellore	Arakonam	08.11.08	90	105	365	440
Chidambaram	Titakudi, Katumanarkudi	25.12.08	75	95	390	415
Vellore	Walaja	03.01.09	55	110	360	450
Cuddalore	Chidambaram	15.02.09	60	90	325	415
Vellore	Gudiattam	29.03.09	75	90	300	350

Through the above conducted Awareness camps the Irulas realised their plight was very pathetic when compared to the other community people. They have become aware of their situation and feel the need for the unity among themselves. They were made aware that they could fight for their rights only if they are united. The need for their own Sangam / Association was stressed. The existing / available government welfare schemes were informed to them. As a result, both the districts were sensitised to form Sarpam Sangam.

These Awareness camps have also resulted in creating and awakening among the Irula community to send their children to the schools instead of

sending them for work as child labour. It has also served the purpose in making them adhere to their personal hygiene and better health.

The active leaders of Sarpam played the role of motivators, leader's mentors and the role model for the Irulas. Role-play, street play were organised by the cultural team in the camps. The theme of role-plays was Police harassment, Non-implementation of Government scheme, Corruptions, inequality, Negligence of the officials' exploitation etc. Nearly 50% of the participants were woman from the villages. In Sarpam the leaders represented to the government officers to give them Scheduled Tribes Certificate, Street lights, Ration Cards, Drinking Water facility, and land Patta etc.

Achievements:

- In Oothukottai circle, an amount of 96500/- was given to the men's group and Rs.26500/- given to the women's group. In addition, sheep were provided to 10 families and milk animals were given to 5 families for their livelihood.
- The RDO of Ponneri 150 Caste certificates relating to 20 families.
- The district collector has issued orders to construct building of 90 group houses in Kamaraj Nagar, Erimedu, Elambedu and Aravakkam.
- In the village of Rangavaram in Thiruvallur, street lighting was provided for the benefit of the community after discussions with the collector through the Sarpam.
- Community certificates were issued by the R.D.O Thiruvallur with the help of Sarpam Sangam to 3 families of Manakarani village of Thiruvallur district.
- 60 housing pattas were issued to Irulas of Cecil Nagar of Chidambaram taluk of Cuddalore district.
- 3600 Irulas signed in a memorandum of appeal demanding basic amenities to be provided to them from the authorities concerned in Delhi
- Caste/Community certificate were issued to 1000 Irulas of tribal origin in Chidambaram, Virudhachalam, Kattaumannar kovil and Thitakudi taluk of Cuddalore district

Particulars of amount received from the govt. under the marriage benefit scheme from Tamil Nadu Tribal welfare board.

1).March 2008 Amount given to Irular community of vallikulam	RS.15,000
2) May 2008 Amount given to Uliyanallur	Rs.20,000
3) September 2008 Amount given to china pulivam thathapudur	Rs.40,000

1. MATERNITY BENEFITS

Kottapalli Gudiyatham Aravatrula	Rs.12000
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2. GROUP HOUSING

Free group houses provide to 7 families of puthurmelur katpadi for
Rs.57, 000*7= Rs3, 99,000

3. A water tank was built in the Irula housing colony at aarani of vellore district with the capacity of 2000 liters

- A petition was given to E.B authority for providing a lamp post for street lighting in Irula residential area in Arakonam
- A amount of 30000 was obtain from the tribal welfare board for Irula community of Malsarampatti as loan for the goat breeding scheme
- 6 free group houses were built and allotted to the Irula community of GR palayam with guidance from sarpam union
- The irula community of aravatla of Gudiyatham taluk was given to acres of government free land as guided from the sarpam union.
- The Irula community of ponneri were given 2 acres of patta land as negotiated by sarpam union.

- Legal proceedings were initiated for obtaining monitor benefit to the released bonded labour till now Rs.61000 has been has benefit and negotiation still been continued.
- Under the marriage benefit scheme Rs20000 given to the beneficiaries of Karal Irula Community of Gudiyatham.
- Petition to the concern on behalf of the Annikat Irula community for group houses, street lighting and electric supply connection reply is still awaited.

2. Leadership Training:

In Thiruvallur, Cuddalore and Vellore District Leaders meetings conducted every month on 26th in Thiruvallur, 28th in Cuddalore, 2nd in Vellore. All the leaders meet and discuss about their newly raised issues and the future course of action that is to be undertaken. The leadership training also gives an opportunity to the Leaders to bring out their talents, understanding of the community problem.

The leadership training programme at the district level, taluk level, and village level were conducted and the details of which are given below,

Details of the leadership training programme

Name of District	Name of Taluk	No of participants		Out Reach	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Thiruvallur	Thiruvallur, Uthukottai, Kumidipoondi, Ponnari, Thirthani, Pallipattu.	25	35	300	400
Vellore	Arkkonam, Kudiyatham, Kattpadi, Thirupathur, Vaniyambadi, Vellore.	65	70	375	420
Cuddalore	Chidambarum Taluk, Katumanarkudi, Titakudi, Panruti, Cuddalore	32	45	300	360

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As

result of the above mentioned training programs the leaders were able to handle and manage any critical situation on their own. After the training 10 community members meet every week to discuss their problems. Organising and Uniting Irula people who are at present scattered in different places. The leaders were given continuous input on available laws, qualities of leaders, coping mechanisms for their roles and responsibilities as a leader of Sarpam Sangam. The leaders were trained to manage their Sarpam organisation on the aspects of fund Raising, collection of membership fee, planning and implementation, running the Sangam, accounts maintenance and managerial Skills.

Outcome:

The leaders of Thiruvallur, Cuddalore and Vellore districts are now able to manage their Sarpam Sangam on their own and find out solutions for their problems. We started to work in the Cuddalore district only after Tsunami the leaders were motivated and trained to tackle the problems and fight for their rights on their own with the Sarpam Guidance.

3. Cultural Training:

Cultural Training is an important tool to reach the community. Sarpam cultural team are given regular training in organising cultural programs these cultural shows help in highlighting the discrimination faced by the Irula community in relation to others and the expertise they should develop to overcome the same.

Every week on Thursday the cultural team undergoes training and new ideas were generated to liberate and sensitise the ignorant Irula in the Newly identified Villages. Apart from this the labourer are given training on the plight of bonded labourers, impact on the released bonded labourers, human rights and abolition of bonded labourer system. Issues regarding the procurement of the Community certificate, Social discriminations faced by the community etc were also focused.

4. Public Meeting:

The purpose of the public meeting comprising of the three districts Cuddalore, Vellore, and Thiruvallur was to highlight the past activities achievements and also apprise them of the assistance they can obtain for redressal of their problem with the help of Bharathi trust and Sarpam. The main object of the meeting was to mobilise the Irulas so that they can get together, unite and represent their grievances

Name of the District	Date	Number of Participants		Out Reach	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Chidambaram	11.07.08	100	150	300	450

A meeting was conducted at a hall at Chidambaram to elect office bearer of the district of Triuvellore, vellore and cuddalore. In the general body meeting 950 represent from Triuvellore, vellore and cuddalore participated. The following problems were discussed.

1. Livelihood problems of the Irula community
2. Human rights

1.	District President	K.SrinivasanThiruvalur
2.	Deputy District president	P.Dhanapal vellore
3.	District Secretary	D.kannan cuddalore
4.	District add Secretary	J.Durai thiruvalur
5.	District add Secretary	L.Balakrishna - cuddalore
6.	. District add Secretary	S.Jayalakshmi – vellore

The general body discussed in detail of their district future plan.

*Resolutions taken during the meeting***RESOLUTION 1**

Under the group housing scheme of the govt. a demand is made of Rs.15000 to Rs.30000 from the Irula beneficial press is given through the villager and contractor. It was requested the work order should be issued in the favor of the Irula.

RESOLUTION 2

Government is being requested to conducted a fresh survey of the original tribal community and allot quota to the people below the poverty line

RESOLUTION 3

It was decided to give importance to provide basic education to the Irula children, obtain caste certificate, and start crèches for the children where ever parents have to go for work

RESOLUTION 4

It was proposed to get statistics of Irula living in the forest and provide them with land Patta's, group housing, improvement of village roads, improved basic communités and provide facilities for basic communities and suggestion for marketing the products this is being done by interacting the collector and forest officer. The right of the Irula forest tribal community has to proceed by discussing with the concerted state and central govt. department.

RESOLTIUON 5

Representation were made to the concerned state authority to allot 2Acres of Patta land, housing land pattas, and group housing scheme for the Irula community in vellore district.

CONVENTION

A rally was organised in Cuddalore district on 09.01.2009 to felicitate the Collector Sri.Rajendra ratnoo I.A.S who has done in his capacity a service to the Irula improvement and which has no parallel in the history of Cuddalore district. Service done by him to Irulas is appreciated to the extent of his being treated as a divine messenger sent to alleviate their miseries.

A huge rally was organized jointly by Sarpam and Bharathi Trust in which all the elected presidents, secretaries of all the branches and other Irula workers participated.

The venue of the Rally was the Manjakupam municipality ground in Cuddalore district and it was 10.00a.m. The welcome address was given by Shri. Devdas, Sarpam Irular President the other participants were Padmashri. Krishnammal Jagannathan secretary of Farmers Land Rights Forum, Smt. Geetha Unorganised Workers federation, Smt.Siddamma Managing Trustee, Bharathi Trust and also office bearers from both the federations.

The Tribal Irulas livelihood rights program rally was inaugurated with a gathering of 8000 Irula families. Though the government earlier denied the existents of the community of the Irulas in the district, the same was disproved by the presence of

Sri. Rajendra ratnoo I.A.S who in a single day arranged to prepare and distribute 999 Irula caste certificate in addition the collector was also responsible for giving away land pattas, provision of Burial ground, Drinking water facilities and electric supply. In fact the collector always gave a patient hearing to the problems of Irulas when ever the same was taken up to him and on many occasions went out of his way to provide relief. Irula community was so much impressed by his actions and took him as a godly figure. It was a matter of pride for the Irulas to have such a benefactor with them on this memorable day and which will never been forgotten by any single person of the community. All of them prayed for his long life and prosperity and success.

Benefits Received during collectors Tenure

1. Group Houses -304
2. A bridge & road constructed in Patticolla of Kattumanar kudi taluk across the stream for the children to go to the school without much strain.

PARTICULARS OF IRULA CASTE CERTIFICATES OBTAIN FROM R.D.O

S.NO	TALUK	NO.OF CERTIFICATE	NO. OF LAND PATTA'S OBTAINED	GROUP HOUSES
1	Viruthachalam	43	21	72
2	Titakudi	35	*	75
3	Chidambaram	461	273	67
4	Panruti	25	*	49
5	Katumannar Kudi	41	*	41

Part III -Release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers

Vellore District:

The practice of employing bonded labour is still prevalent in certain areas of Vellore and Thiruvallur districts in the Rice mills and Brick kilns. Efforts are being taken to trace them out and get them released. In the district of Vellore 22 bonded labour persons employed in the brick kiln were released due to the intervention of Sarpam on 24th feb 2008. Release certificates were issued by the R.D.O and other officials.

ACHEIVEMENTS

1. All the rice mills are now registered and obtained license from the government (Earlier not even a single rice mill was registered with the license before this issue has been exposed).
2. The bonded labour working in the rice mill is having regular working hours pursuant to the discussions the R.D.O had with the concern owners.
3. Regular meeting are conducted and discussions carried out between bonded labour and Sarpam project workers.
4. The rice mill owners have written off debts of the release bonded labours.
5. The piece rate has been increased from Rs 8 to Rs 15 per gunny bag of paddy.
6. Less harassment in the rice mills the employees are treated with human dignity.
7. A basic amenity like bore well for drinking water and street lightning was installed.
8. Due to the advice of Sarpam leader's children of bonded labour re compulsorily persuaded to go to schools regularly.

Activities performed:

AWARNESS CAMPS:

Awareness camps was organised and conducted on 04.07.2007 in Thiruvallur bonded labour Irula villages. We have insisted on the various steps to be taken for relieving the Irulas from the bondages. Steps have also been taken to train them on Labour law, human rights issue, Civil rights and various laws related to women.

Name of the District	Date	Number of Participants		Out Reach	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Chennai	28.04.08	100	150	300	450
Chennai	09.06.08	125	135	325	350
Thiruvallur	29.09.08	115	145	300	340
Ponneri	25.10.08	145	170	350	420
Pallipat	11.11.08	85	105	200	225
Chennai	19.11.08	125	170	330	360
Utukotai	28.12.08	100	125	325	350
Thirutani	23.03.09	150	175	350	375
Gumudipondi	30.03.09	175	200	400	425

Outcome;

The Awareness camp helped us to liberate the people and sensitise them to relieve from the bondages .In Vellore we were able to release three families from the Brick kiln unit. Thiruvallur district people were motivated and acquired the strength to struggle against the bondages levied on them by the owners.

CULTURAL MELA

Cultural Mela was performed to create awareness and to sensitise the people regarding the bonded labour issues. The cultural team has fifteen released bonded labourers comprising 50 % of women involved in campaign work to bring out the bonded labour issue. The programme includes bonded labour issue based songs, Street drama and Role-play. The posters, and pamphlets on Bonded Labour, Laws regarding the wages, SC/ST act was distributed in the villages

The cultural mela is an effective method of reaching the people as 90% of the target people are illiterate. The cultural mela was conducted inThiruvallur, Vellore, and Cuddalore districts. 10 days mela was conducted in these districts. As the members of the cultural Team belong to Irula scheduled tribe, they were able to reach their community well and convey the ideas in an effective manner. 15 staff members and 15 bonded labourers visited the target villages and organised the cultural melas. This was an extempore event based on their village issues performed by the trained team of 30 members. They highlighted the need for unity among the Irulas, formation of their own Sangams, pathetic situation various government schemes, bonded labour issues etc.

The following are details regarding the cultural Mela,

Cultural Mela

<i>Sl.No</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Districts</i>	<i>Number of villages performed</i>
01.	09.10.09	Cuddalore,	27 Villages
02.	25.03.09	Vellore	15 Villages

Outcome:

The Irulas in the targeted villages expressed their willingness to form the Sangam which is the ultimate goal of cultural mela. The people became emotional and offered their donation to the group and the teams were offered food by the villagers. The main focus of the mela was on gender issues, alcoholism, women beating and suppression.

There was a separate cultural mela held on “plight of bonded labourers” and the awareness was created through cultural activities on the condition of how most of the people from Villupuram and Vellore district come to Chennai for the survival purpose and become bonded labourers unknowingly. They shared their experience on their sufferings in the rice mill and Brick kiln to the Irula people. The cultural team is named Viduthalai (Freedom).

Livelihood Project:**Details of Livelihood support given by Bharathi Trust and Sarpam at Thiruvallur District:****THALERIPALYAM VILLAGE – GUMIDIPOONDI TALUK***Puratchipookal Men's group***CHENNAVARAN***senjamman Irular Womens SHG*

S.no	Name	Livelihood support	Occupation
1	Veerammal w/o Raman	Cow and calf	Shepherd
2	Sathya w/o Vaasu	Cow and calf	Shepherd
3	Valli w/o Arul	Cow and calf	Shepherd
4	Devi w/o Ragu	2 Goats	Shepherd
5	Sarasu w/o Radha	2 Goats	Shepherd
6	Shanthi w/o Kajendren	Cycle	Fish vending
7	Shanthi w/o Sakarai	Grainder & provisions	Idly shop
8	Govinammal w/o Narathan	2 Goats	Shepherd
9	Sumitra w/o Gopi	Grainder & provisions	Idly shop
10	Muniammal w/o Kangan	2 Goats	Shepherd
11	Selvi w/o Saami	2 Goats	Shepherd
12	Senthamarai w/o Seenu	1 Goats + Vessel + Weight Balance	Fishing, Shepperd
13	Chitra w/o Singaram	Grinder & provisions	Idly shop
14	Jaya w/o Arumugam	Cycle	Fish vending
15	Rajeshwari w/o Durai	2 Goats	Shepherd
16	Salsa w/o Ramadhas	2 Goats	Shepherd

KAMARAJ NAGAR VILLAGE - MEN

S.no	Name	Livelihood support	Occupation
1	Dharman s/o Marimuthu	Fish net, rope	Fishing
2	Mari s/o Dhuraikannu	Fish net, rope	Fishing
3	Subramani s/o Senjukhan	Fish net, rope	Fishing
4	Selvaraj s/o Marimuthu	Fish net, rope	Fishing
5	Shanmugan s/o Gundukhan	Fish net, rope	Fishing
6	Muthu s/o Shanmugam	Cycle	Fish vending
7	Balaram s/o Marimuthu	Cycle	Fish vending
8	Kumar s/o Mohan	Cycle	Fish vending
9	Subramani s/o vilakhan	Cycle	Fish vending
10	Ravi s/o Dharman	Cycle	Fish vending
11	Suresh s/o Dharman	Cycle	Fish vending
12	Selvam s/o Krishnan	Cycle	Fish vending
13	Ganesh s/o Selvaraj	Cycle	Fish vending
14	Chinnaian s/o Ellaian	Cycle	Fish vending

KAMARAJ NAGAR VILLAGE - WOMEN

S.no	Name	Livelihood support	Occupation
1	Mallika	Cycle	Fishvending
2	Nellura	Fish net, rope etc	Fishing
3	Kala w/o Mariuthu	Grinder, provisions	Idly shop
4	Desammal w/o Kumar	Cycle	Fishvending
5	Chinnaponnu w/o Muthu	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
6	Muthamal w/o Ellapan	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
7	Valli w/o Kumar	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
8	Shanthi w/o Selvam	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
9	Valli w/o Subramani	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope	Fishvending
10	Kanniammal w/o Mani	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope	Dry fish vending

11	Saroja w/o Mari	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
12	Anjali w/o Gajendran	Cycle	Fishvending
13	Ellammal w/o Govindaswamy	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
14	Lalitha w/o Gandhiappan	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
15	Maariammal w/o Kaniappan	Grinder, porvosions	Idly shop
16	Sarasu w/o Murugesan	Drum, cup, Milk etc	Tea Shop
17	papammal w/o Kongan	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
18	Padma w/o Arumugam	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
19	Roja	Cycle	Fishvending
20	Balamma	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
21	Valliamal w/o Durai	Porvision materials	Provision shop
22	Lakshmi w/o Munivel	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
23	Chinaponnu w/o Venu	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
24	Sengala w/o Mari	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
25	Kantha w/o Rajamani	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
26	Shenha w/o Viji	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
27	Sellamal w/o Polai	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
28	Muniammal	Cycle	Fishvending

29	Senjiammal	Vessel, Weight Balance, rope etc	Fishvending
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Details of Livelihood support given by Bharathi Trust and Sarpam at Cuddalore District:

CECEIL NAGAR - WOMEN

Senthoora poova group

S.no	Name	Livelihood support	Occupation
1	Sudha w/o Kumar	Fish net	Fishing
2	Kaveri w/o Kaliappan	Fish net	Fishing
3	Devi w/o Arumugam	Fish net	Fishing
4	Chandra w/o Kannan	Cup, drum, Boiler	Tea shop
5	Saroja w/o selvaraj	Fish net	Fishing
6	Vijaya w/o Muthuswamy	Provision material	Provision shop
7	Kuppammal w/o Selvam	Fish net	Fishing
8	Rajavalli w/o Arumugam	Provision material	Provision shop

T.S PETTAI

Senchiammal group

S.no	Name	Livelihood support	Occupation
1	Sudha w/o Balu	Cup, drum, Boiler	Tea shop
2	Pachaiamal w/o Kalyan	Fish net	Fising
3	Gowri w/o Ravi	Grinder, Provisions	Idly shop
4	Valli w/o Murugan	Fish net	Fising
5	Mallika w/o Subramani	Goat	Shepherd
6	Palaniammal w/o Subramani	Goat	Shepherd
7	Selvi w/o Krishnan	Goat	Shepherd
8	Krishnaveni w/o Ramesh	Goat	Shepherd
9	Lakshmi w/o Kumar	Goat	Shepherd

Education of Irula children:

The senior members of Irula community are illiterate and only a very negligible percentage of their children are first generation school goers. Due to their ignorance of basic rights to live with honour, they are always neglected by the society and are also left out of national mainstream by the Government. To make them aware of their basic rights and also socially and financially as viable citizens, they need to be encouraged to acquire the basic knowledge in educational field through constant motivation and involvement. The condition of the children is very poor and they do not possess any knowledge. The society does not provide them the opportunity to learn hence they lack the basic knowledge. Sometimes even after enrolling in the government school they were de-motivated by the teacher's attitude and parent's apathy shown towards their education.

To involve them in education requires motivation and support. Hence basic education has to be provided by the education motivation centre to train them to acquire the basic knowledge for the purpose of getting enrolled in government schools. The basic language and arithmetic skills can be installed in them through the simple techniques. We train the student with twigs, stones and available material in order to attract their attention.

In Addition other activities like Drawing, Painting, clay work, Simple dance steps with rhymes were also included in the curriculum in order to build creativity and interest in learning. We also provide nutritious food to the children to provide stamina and energy. In the centres we also provide nutritious care and health care. This centres also help the working mothers of this community as they can leave their children in the centres and go about their work .Otherwise it will be difficult for them to take the children to their work spot.

Child care centre:

Child care centers opened in different villages cater to the needs of educating the children to develop an interest of education in them. Two child care centers are being run in Nandiambakkam and Senjiaman nagar, Thiruvallur District. Number of students studying in Nandiambakkam is 96 and in Senjiaman Nagar is 45.

The children in Child care center are provided with Nutritious food by Bharathi Trust.

Regarding Child care centre at Nandiambakkam the government has taken over the management from June 2008 onwards. However till January 2009 nutritious food was provided by Bharathi Trust. It may be noted that at present 2 teachers from Irula community are working in this school.

Child Development centre

There are 8 child care centre functioning in at present Cuddalore district and 5 child care centre at Thiruvallur District. The teachers working with these development centers conducted 24 meetings during the period from March 2008 April 2009 With a view to improve the educational facilities of the Irula children evening tuitions are regularly conducted in villages of Cuddalore and Thiruvallur district.

Villages of Cuddalore District

S.No	Name of the Village	Total no of Students	Male	Female
1.	M.G.R Nagar	85	40	45
2.	Kalainger Nagar	90	42	48
3.	Swamy nagar	87	41	46
4.	Bharathi Nagar	65	32	33
5.	Agaram Pudhu nagar	97	47	50
6.	T.S Pettai	85	45	40
7.	South Pichavaram	87	40	47
8.	North Pichavaram	104	51	53

Villages of Thiruvallur District

S.No	Name of the Village	Total no of Students	Male	Female
1.	Kaluladai Medu	25	12	13
2.	Rajarithna Nagar	29	15	14
3.	Thaleripalayam	34	16	18
4.	Kolathumedu	26	13	13
5.	Chennavaram	30	14	16

1. Assessing and improving the talents of the students by the Teachers.
2. Periodical assessment of the knowledge by conducting Test regularly
3. Mutual discussion of the teachers, student carrier guidance holding of special classes during the vacations.
4. Education on the aspects of Hygiene, Health & English knowledge etc.
5. Sports and Participation in the games.
6. Creating Awareness to the parents of the Balwadi children to admit them in the regular schools.
7. Conducting regular sports activities to build up a spirit of competition.
8. Conducting Awareness camps for the parents to persuade children to schools.
9. Informing the parents about various schemes of the government for the students and how to obtain this assistance.
10. Conducting special cultural programs and sports activities on national holidays and award prices to the winners.
11. Parent, Teacher association meeting are conducted regularly and teachers offering their dedicated efforts to give their best for the improvement of the schools
12. All kinds of educational assistance provided for the students by Bharathi Trust and concern parents have shown their appreciation.
13. Training conducted for the teachers to explain to the students their role and rights towards the society.

Totally 846 children are obtaining the benefits of teaching and tuition. Awareness camps were conducted for parents whose children were dropouts from the government school and at present there are no drop outs. Teachers from government school also participated in the parent teachers meeting to give better awareness to the Irula parents regarding their children education, conducted in the tuition centers

School uniforms were distributed to 120 students of government schools of North and South Pichavaram on behalf of Bharathi Trust. These uniforms have been distributed to children of those families who could not provide the same to the children due to their poverty.

In the village of Panaggateri of Vaniambadi Taluk, Vellore district a government school is functioning for imparting education to the children up to 5th standard. Total number of students are 55, male-25 and female-30. On completion of 5th standard the students are admitted to the next higher standard at Ambur village.

The school also provides nutritious food for the students on the following basis. The cost of the same is borne by Bharathi Trust for three days and the balance provided by the government.

Tuition classes are also conducted in the evening after the school hour's i.e from 4.30-6.00 p.m. The teachers giving the tuition are Kalai selvi and Kumudham who have passed their 10th standard and belong to the Irula community.

Medical Camp:

Medical camp was conducted in M.G.R Nagar and Swami Nagar and the neighboring villages like north pichavaram, south pichavaram and T. S pettai participated and 1220 people were treated for various ailments. Their disabilities like defective vision, bad teeth, heart problems and autism were explained to the patient and then they were admitted in near by hospital for necessary treatment.

Community Resource center:

Background:

India is an agricultural country and 90% of its population is living in the villages. More than 50% of them are illiterates. Though few children from these villages have studied up to school level, they also go for coolie work as their parents are in the condition of grinding poverty and exploitation due to severe unemployment.

Due to modernization, chemical fertilizers and pesticides are being used to increase productivity at the cost of clean environment and good health. Even skilled farmers are unable to follow eco friendly methods of agricultural production. So slowly age old system of our agricultural methods and eco friendly agricultural products are getting vanished. Organic manure production using cow dung and with other decayed vegetable was a very important method of agriculture. Similarly seed recycling also. The present type of agricultural methods and products give not only health problems but environment problems also.

Target group:

The target group or anticipated beneficiaries of the resource center are: Farmers, Women, Students, private as well as government teachers, peasants and artisans, educationists, non-government organizations engaged in various developmental works including education and community at large.

The community will be involved with the working of the resource centre. They will find employment as artisans and develop their skills. They will also help in the construction of the resource center. The total involvement of the community shall ensure the success of the center.

Improvements in the Resource center

Our project workers in the Resource center have taken up the cause of alternate cultivation in the land adjoining our land at resource centre by the following methods:

1. Provision of electricity for their agricultural land.
2. Distribution of seeds for cultivation.
3. Advise on the use of organic manure and procedure for preparing the same to them.

It may be mentioned that prior to this step being taken the lands were kept in barren condition.

The land was ploughed and fully prepared for cultivation. A part of the land was also leveled up to construct a cow shed. Later a few cows were purchased and preparation of organic manure was initiated by use of panchakavya, amudakarasal and poochu verati. We are now taken up in a proper way in the cultivation of paddy, vegetables and raagi.

Amudakarasal is prepared by mixing of the following items:

Cow's urine
Jiggery
Cow dung

These items are proportionally mixed in a plastic drum and kept for 24hrs during which it stirred 2-3 times. This mix is later taken out and 200ml is mixed with 10liters of water and spared on crops. This acts as excellent manure and results in good plant growth.

Panchakavya is prepared by mixing of the following items:

Milk
Cows urine
Cow dung
Curd
Ghee
Pulse bran
Tender coconut water
Toddy
Banana

These items are proportionally mixed in a plastic drum and kept for 20 days during which it is stirred once a day. This mix is later taken out and 200ml is mixed with 10 liters of water and spared on crops. This acts as excellent manure and results in good plant growth

Further improvement of land leveling, improving trenches and taking up plantation of fruits and fodder trees in the land. Construction was also taken up of four check dams, three manure pits, one vermin composed shed, one over head tank, store room and Kalam (platform).

By land leveling we have recovered two acres of land for cultivation. BHARATHI TRUST took all the efforts with the concerned with the government to provide electric supply in the area. By use of single sapling

planting system we need to use less water, less paddy seeds. For example we use only 23 kg of paddy seeds compared to 50kgs as per the old system. For planting saplings in the regular system we need ten persons at Rs.100 for 2 days, but in the new system we need only three person because of very less sapling.

As we are using manual weeder in which one person could do one acre in relation to the employment 30 coolie workers for the same job. And the normal payment of the coolie is Rs.50 per day and it takes three days to complete the job. It is also easy for people to recognize the area points for the saplings to be planted. In parts of the land we have also cultivated jeeraga, champa and red rice. The yield was good losses were minimal and we gained 25% out of this system.

Composed beds:

We use to collect the agricultural waste and put in the composed pit in one place, but now we have developed a composed bed system in each cultivated land where the manure is produced in the field itself.

Vegetables:

We have tried to grow cabbage, carrot, beetroot, onion, chilli beans etc but we were able to get these enough for only consumption of the families who are working in the land. So this has resulted in the loss of 50%

Motivation for Local grains:

We tried to plant local grains like jowar, raagi, thenai, kollu, kambu, sunflower so that in future for the farmers would atleast get rid of items like sugar cane. Farmers are also diverting their mind to cultivation of other consumable items as it is not profitable for them to grow the grains due to its being eaten by birds in a large measure. Making them to incur losses. This is one of their main reasons for their resorting to sugar cane cultivation.

FLOOD RELIEF:**Thiruvallur District**

Due to unprecedented rains during the month of October there was heavy flooding of water in Thiruvallur district. The following places were badly affected and relief had to be provided.

Ponneri Taluk, Thiruvallur District:

S.No	Name of the Village	No. of Families Affected
1	Palavakkam	70
2	Senjamma Nagar	52
3	Kanjivoyal	42
4	Kanandurai	15
5	Vanji vakam	26
6	Nandiambakkam	65

Gumudipoondi Taluk, Thiruvallur District:

S.No	Name of the Village	No. of Families Affected
1	Thalaripalayam	40
2	Citerajakandigai	15
3	Kamaraj Nagar	50
4	Thirukandalam	95

As a measure of immediate relief Sarpam along with Bharathi Trust made arrangements to give 5kg of Rice as a measure of immediate relief to the families detailed above. In many of the cases apart from damage to the houses due to flash flood there was loss of household items also due to the same being washed away.

Cuddalore District

Due to heavy rains in the month of December 2008 many of the families living in the low lying area were badly affected and steps had to be taken to provide them immediate relief. As they had lost everything and were suffering from starvation the following items were rushed to the affected places for distribution for each family. Total numbers of families affected were 1052.

1. Rice – 10kg
2. Dal – 1kg
3. Chilli powder – 1kg
4. Cooking oil – 1 litre

S.No	Name of the Village	Taluk	No. of Families Affected
1.	Jayamkondanda patinam	Chidambaram	40
2.	Varugoorpettai	Chidambaram	58
3.	Kumaramagulam	Chidambaram	21
4.	Thilainayagapuram	Chidambaram	21
5.	Devangudi	Chidambaram	16
6.	Panganchutukudi	Chidambaram	5
7.	Varuthoorsavadi	Chidambaram	4
8.	Thanpadi	Chidambaram	4
9.	Thavanthampatu	Chidambaram	14
10.	Alampadi	Chidambaram	3
11.	Bhoothavarayam pettai	Chidambaram	23
12.	Kuruyamangalam	Chidambaram	26
13.	Agaramalampadi	Chidambaram	4
14.	Chethaiyathopu	Chidambaram	78
15.	Bomaratchi	Katumanarkudi	16
16.	Parthikudi	Katumanarkudi	3
17.	Katumanarkudi	Katumanarkudi	44
18.	Devanaputhur	Katumanarkudi	26
19.	Vilvakulam	Katumanarkudi	12
20.	Patikollai	Katumanarkudi	68
21.	Palayamkotai	Katumanarkudi	14
22.	Shri neducheri	Katumanarkudi	14
23.	Kurnjipudi	Katumanarkudi	8
24.	Mudikanda nallur	Katumanarkudi	12
25.	Athur	Katumanarkudi	68

26.	Ethanur	Katumanarkudi	14
27.	Tamadikupam	Cuddalore	22
28.	Enikarathotam	Cuddalore	14
29.	Swaminagar	Cuddalore	40
30.	Uthagal	Viruthachalam	26
31.	Kumaramangalam	Viruthachalam	28
32.	M.Parur	Viruthachalam	31
33.	Pavalamkudi	Viruthachalam	8
34.	Rajendrapatinam	Viruthachalam	24
35.	Satyavadi	Viruthachalam	28
36.	Podikalam	Thitakudi	4
37.	Purikolam	Thitakudi	4
38.	Melur	Thitakudi	30
39.	Agaram	Thitakudi	26
40.	Anguchetipalayam	Panruti.	30
41.	Enathirimangalam	Panruti	14
42.	Karumbar	Panruti	27