

Site Visit Report August 2016

- I met Sidamma and her family (son, daughter and son-in-law) at her residence in Thiruvanmayur, Chennai on August 14, 2016.
- Sidamma continues to work on women empowerment issues. A 14 year old girl who was forced into marriage and harassed by her in-laws is currently living with Sidamma. The girl has never gone to school. Sidamma is sending her to tailoring classes hoping that she can live a financially independent life.
- We talked about the flood relief efforts in Cuddalore. Siddamma was extremely thankful that we were able to send her the needed funds in a timely manner. Her son-in-law (Praveen) helped her a lot with travel, transportation and distribution of materials (rice, daal, bedsheets, tarpaulin, and cooking oil).
- Sidamma said that the Govt. has already allocated land to many people affected in the floods. However there are some on-going issues where some of the private parties are trying their best to take away the land from these people for their own personal benefit.
- She is also working on building permanent shelters for people affected in the floods.
- She said that they are building a fence around the Bharathi Trust Resource Center because the farm was recently attacked by wild pigs. She gave me a delicious porridge mix made of 18 millets (from the farm).
- She said that she would send me an updated funds utilization report that would provide more details regarding expenditure for the food relief effort.
- I was supposed to visit the flood affected areas with Sidamma but didn't get to do it because my son fell sick that week.