

## REPORT on ACTIVITIES

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### Studies

Self is going to complete Doctorate in Wasteland Development in Administration Angle.  
Thesis submission being the main work and took much of time for preparation of documents and datas to complete the initial documents for thesis work. Still work in progress to complete the same.

### In SIRAGU

June 2007 to May 2008 being the academic year for Siragu, self was engaged in preparatory work to plan for this academic year needs.

<b>Education and Knowledge tour to foot hills HIMALAYAS</b>
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In the month of April 2007, 20 children of Siragu along with some staff were to foot hills of HIMALAYS. They interacted with many children over there, moved with tribal people and interviewed them and various other programs held over there. One of the days, our children gave a party to elders of the school SIDH over there. The trip was quite enjoyable and knowledgeable.

**The special thing is they named the party which they gave to the team at SIDH, as PEACE WORLD PARTY.** Children themselves prepared vegetable and fruit salads and with the waste of dry fruits and nuts, they have designed the word PEACE WORLD PARTY and it has more fun and enjoyment.

<b>Books for School prepared and released</b>
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As we mentioned in earlier reports, we write our own books on various topics and the inputs are collected from different websites, reference books and practical knowledge gained over a period of service and creative ideas.

So far, we have released books on various topics  
HEALTH & HYGIENE  
CLIMATE  
AGRICULTURE  
HUMAN ANATOMY

& now recent release is book on KITCHEN

## In NAGAPATTINAM

- Construction of new building for activity centre is in progress at Akkaraipettai, Nagapattinam (fully funded and sponsored by Schlumberger Asia Services Ltd., USA). Scheduled inauguration of the center on 5<sup>th</sup> September'07.

### DIGITAL LIBRARY

- With the support of SCHLUMBERGER opening up a DIGITAL LIBRARY in the new building scheduled to inaugurate on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

- The library will be accessible pre primary students to Higher secondary students. Equipped with 5 computers, hundreds of CDs and hundreds of books on various interesting subjects which kindle the skills of children and more of visual learning is facilitated.

### Ongoing Projects

#### – ACTIVITY CENTERS in NAGAPATTINAM, VELANKANNAI, PONDICHERY UT -

Measurable impact of the 2 activity centers at Karaikkal and Akkaraipettai in terms of education of children, coping with the tsunami grief, their performance in schools in terms of drop-out reduction, child labor reduction, improved exam performance, impact on girl children, etc

#### About Activity Centre, Akkaraipettai

- 20 school drop outs were reunited with Panchayat Union Elementary School.
- These drop outs are detached from school for a long time, 4 years, 3 years and recent 1 year and all of them were engaged in fishing activity.
- After children attended the center, have seen the educational materials kept over there and the method of teaching impressed them, the food and balanced diet also major reasons behind children attending the center
- To bring the children to the activity center, started with distribution of sweets, chocolates and play materials, then they attracted by our activities and finally decided to come to the center.
- After tsunami the victims stayed in temporary shelters not turned back to their places in the villages due to various reasons. Even the children very much afraid of coming back to their places. Once the activity center is opened, private auto was picking up the children and now Van picks them up, they were regular to the center.
- To be specific **Selvi Subashri** aged 9 years, a mentally retarded was kept at home before tsunami and after tsunami at temporary shelter. We convinced the parents and told them to send her out to the center; hence we can help her to enjoy the life. After given exercise practice, eye rotation to come out of eye problem and other physical problems are getting resolved and she is improving better and hope very soon, she will be back to normal.
- **Selvi Shenbagavalli** aged 14 years, is physically handicap affected with polio not come out of house for many years. Convinced the elder brother of the girl and brought her to the activity center and the impact is
  - \* she is able hold the pencil / pen which was not possible previously
  - \* she able to write Tamil, English words
  - \* able to sing rhymes in English
  - \* Able to identify the flash cards shown to her, which has fruits, vegetables, words and other pictures.

### Response from Children

\* As children were impressed on system adopted in the center, they expect the same thing in the school but when they feel that is missing, they back to center. They even are asking us to get special permission from the school, so that they can attend the center regularly.

### Our Observation Ms.Jeya – Incharge, Activity Center, Nagapattinam

- Ms.Jeya was working as a PTA teacher in PUES, Akkaraipettai and left the school before tsunami.
- Her husband died in tsunami disaster.
- After tsunami she was very much disturbed and felt alone and helps up at home.
- Once she is called for joining the job as Center In charge, she agreed to join

### Her Sharings

- I was very much disturbed after tsunami, when I lost my husband. After I was offered a Center In charge job, I am really able to forget my past and got big hope for Life.
- I was not familiar to Computer but now I am able to operate it and teach the children the basics and operate CDs, VCDs and other softwares installed in the system.
- I was feeling happy in the school when I was working as a PTA teacher but only in the activity center I feel satisfied after learning different techniques to handle the children and teach the children with new method of teaching especially play way method, she says....

### Her Observation about Children

- Children are eager to learn things and they mostly like to access Computer and computer related games and other CDs kept over there.
- Different books, coloring books, head phone facility to listen individually, drawing practice, play ground materials, exercise equipments are the main attractive and most likely things for the children. Hence, children were very much attentive to hear the teacher patiently.

Responses from the community where these centers are running in terms of parent understanding support, etc.

### Observation from Discussion with Parents

- Parents hesitate to send the children to school as they involved in the fishing activity and they were happy that children are safe at home and not outside. These types of parents were literally changed their mentality after they had visited to the center and had seen the activities performed for the children.
- General opinion from them is, if they send the children only to the center after some time they can join directly in higher class in regular school. Hence, they request us to reunite the children to the school and also allow them to attend the activity center.
- The parents were happy that their children not wasting their time, roaming on the roads but spend their time usefully in the center.

## ACTIVITY CENTRE – KARAIKKAL

### Status of Children

#### Before

- \* The most of the attendees of center were become school dropouts two years before.
- \* They were addicted to some wrong habits
- \* Wasting time by roaming on roads

**After**

- \* Reaching the center before 11.00 am everyday
  - \* Children not having reading and writing skills, now equipped themselves to sing Rhymes in English and able to explain moral stories.
  - \* Started writing on their own
  - \* They themselves mention that; have dropped all the wrong habits
- the most important one is  
from get up time to go to bed, they themselves do their daily routine without any dependence.

**PARENTS' Opinion**

- \* Parents happily mention that their children were previously fighting with each other in the village, after coming to center, have seen much changes on them and not fighting with anybody in the village as their spend their free time usefully in the center.
- \* Friendly move with neighbors and no problem so far.
- \* Coming back to home early in the night previously enter the home only in late night.
- \* Respecting parents and others
- \* They themselves take care of their daily routine – washing clothes, etc.
- \* One boy from the family of two boys attending the center. Comparing the attitude and behavior both, they have seen much difference in the child who regular to center. Moreover, they insist to admit other boy also.

**OBSERVATION from AC Staff**

- \* In the beginning, children were not concentrating on classes conducted but now they are very much enthusiastic to know things and started asking doubts and once clarified, continue reading.
- \* While taking classes to children, we have a free thought to support the children in many ways so that we start thinking about how to equip them.
- \* Two girls working in center share their feelings that, they were spent most of their time in their houses but now able to meet many people and new things to learn is highly helpful to them to improve themselves better.
- \* Training on computer increase the interest to know more.
- \* Conduct classes in different methods also keep us happy and energetic always.

**Individual Case Study**

Name : M.Kaviarasan  
Father's Name : S.Manikkam  
Age : 15 years  
Address : 88, Amman Koil Street, Karaikkalmedu, Karaikkal.

Kaviarasan, when he was studying in III Std, discontinued and started working with his father. After some years, he realized the importance of education and felt very bad that he couldn't continue his studies.

- \* From the time he joined the center started learning at good speed.
- \* He himself surprised about his talents
- \* Recently when dance practice is given to many students, he learnt beautifully and dances very well for three songs.
- \* He thought Computer is only for educated people but now he operates computer on his own and started playing educational games.
- \* Started learning good habits and respect others.

Name : VINOTH  
Father's Name : Mr.Vijendiran  
Age : 14 years  
Address : 99, Amman Koil Street, Karaikkalmedu, and Karaikkal.  
Education Qualification : 9<sup>th</sup> Std

**Before**

- \* Due to economic condition of the family he is forced to go with his father for Profession.
- \* Due to the friendship with uneducated friends, character also got affected.

**After**

- \* Showing interest to know about highly professional people in the World.
- \* Improved his speaking skills
- \* Able to operate Computer on his own
- \* Introduction of new friends has no bad habits, made him also come out of bad habits

**In general**

- \* He is good in Dance, Volley Ball & Cricket

## ASHA CONFERENCE IN PUNJAB

- Self and Muthuram accompanied Sathyapriya of Asha Honor Chennai attended the conference held in Punjab.
- Able to interact with the children in the SHERPUR town in Punjab
- A very good platform to meet the volunteers and fellows from various chapters and interactions and subject discussed in the conference is a good learning.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Various meetings conducted among the community people (parents of SIRAGU children) to make them understand the concept and education system of Siragu and how children developed their skills.

Give them open invitation to participate in monthly parent-teacher meetings and attend various functions held in the school in order to know what their children really doing.

On several motivational methods approached, 10 youngsters learnt DRIVING AUTORICKSHAWS and now they were in need to financial support to pay down payment to the financiers to buy new auto on loan. We look forward financial support from donors to support these initiatives.

## OTHER PROJECTS EXECUTED BY SUYAM

*Partnering with other NGOs*

### SUYAM - AKANKSHA program

An ongoing project at Pazhaverkadu area in 3 different models.

1. Classes conducted at Govt School
2. Classes conducted at local centres.
3. Student Follow up Program

[Work continued in the same manner as mentioned in the previous report (Nov'06 to March'07)]

## OTHER PROJECTS EXECUTED BY SUYAM

*Self funded projects*

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO STUDENTS**  
**STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS OF SUYAM**  
**HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS**  
**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES**  
**COUNSELING PROGRAMS & ADVOCACY**  
**SSA (Sarva Shiksha Aayan)**

### **& FEEDING THE STREET & SLUM CHILDREN IN AND AROUND CHENNAI CITY**

is the new project started by Suyam with the support of a single donor and plan to extend many beneficiaries once more support is gained from many donors.



**- Distribution of food packets to 100 children a day during 6 days a week**  
(Every day different variety of food cooked in Suyam office and distributed by Staff and volunteers)

**- Distribution of food packets to 1000 children, once or twice in a month**  
(Once or twice in a month cook VEGETABLE RICE at Suyam office and get distributed to children in various areas).

So far, nearly 5000 children were benefited out of this program during June to August'07.

**= to be continued =**