

Report on the visit to SEA at Mamallapuram on Feb 15, 2013

1. Was your visit announced?

YES. Announced to Mr. Desingu on Feb 14, 2013 by telephone.

2. Project Contact: Mr. S. Desingu,

3. What are the different focus areas of the organization?

Community development – 15%

Education – 75%

Health – 10%

4. What is the administrative structure of the group?

President – Secretary – Treasurer – Vice President – General
Body Members – EC members

Totally nine (9)

5. Are there any other organizations working in the area
providing any one or all of the services provided by the visited
organization?

NIL

6. What are the main problems the organization faces for running
this project?

(i) Not able to meet the demands at the village schools, i.e.
not enough teachers required to teach the large number
of children in various schools.

(ii) Financial problems.

- (iii) Trained field staff often leave for more lucrative jobs or quit after marriage – resulting in frequent change of field and administrative staff.
- (iv) Insufficient support from the community, particularly the parents of the children.

7. Approximately how many families live in the area?

Approximately 1000 families.

8. What do the parents do for a living?

Fishing.

9. What is their economic/educational background?

Illiterates, and not able to pay school fees.

10. At the time of enrolment, does the school ask for the names of both parents?

YES

11. How often do the teachers meet the parents?

Once a month.

12. How do the parents/the community view the efforts taken by the organization that runs the project?

They are happy with the efforts of the organization.

13. What is the motivation for the parents to send their children to school?

Parents do not have any motivation. In many cases, they are forced to send their children to school.

14. How do the parents participate in the organization's activities?

The parents don't actively participate.

15. Are there any government schools in the area?

YES

16. If yes, how far are the government schools from the community?

Two kms.

17. Why did the parents choose this school over the government school?

The project (SEA) involves working with the government schools and appointing teachers for the government schools. The enrollment campaign encourage parents to send their children to the government schools and motivations centres.

18. When you visited, how many children were present in the class?

55 students in school 1

32 students in school 2

25 students in the motivation centre

19. Do the students seem to enjoy coming to school?

YES

20. What portion of children from the local community (approx..) attends this school? What portion of children does not go to ANY school?

50% of the children attend this school. Around 10% of the children do not attend ANY school.

21. What activities do the children do after school hours?
Attend extra motivational classes.
22. What is the main motivation for the students to attend school?
To get educated. To get food.
23. What is the drop-out rate among students? Why do they leave the school?
Percentage not known. The students typically lose interest in what they learn in school, and end up joining the fishing profession (boys) or become housemaids (girls).
24. What do the children feel about the school?
They are very happy to be attending the school every day.