

2000 - 2001

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2001

Annai Thersa Samuga Sevai Sangam

No.101 West Street
Tirukoilur Taluk, Villupuram Dist
Pin : 605 757.

BACK GROUND:

Annai Thersa Samuga Sevai Sangam in short known as ATSSS was initiated in 1997 by a group of concerned individuals from tirukoilur taluk, in the villupuram district, Tamilnadu. ATSSS works with rural communities, forming the majority of population of Tirukoilur Taluk, Facing severe marginalisation in social, economic, and cultural terms. Most of the village people are landless and survive by providing unskilled labour for daily wage. ATSSS began its work at Thanganandal Village, presently, ATSSS has extended to more than 40 villages, comprises a core staff, of teachers and voluntary level workers. This reports summaries the activities of ATSSS for the period April 2000 to 31 March 2001.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

GOALS:

Support the empowerment of rural communities in the exercises of their rights and increased access to natural resources in order to have greater control over their lives, livelihood and environment.

Objectives:

- To enhance the capacities, particularly of women in rural communities towards betterment of their health and socioeconomic status.
- Initiate and support community income Generation through? Skills training and self employment activities.
- To Organize women groups and bring their under regularized sangha act and facilitation with saving and credit activities.
- To improve the standard of Girl children, school going, Non-school going with suitable educational activities and supportive services to teen aged girls who are under employment.
- To import Free legal Aid Training, AIDS / Health awareness, Political involve ment training to Rural Women.
- To revive the dying traditional Tribal / Folk Arts and making a common platform to rural artist with proper orientation.
- Support the sharing of experiences learnt from community based initiatives to promote mutual learning among village communities.

Activities in 2000-2001

1. MOTIVATION OF FUNCTION OF SELF HELP GROUP:

Special efforts were taken to strengthen the existing women group and forming new group, resulting in an increase in membership 1,500. So far we have organized 50 women SHG in addition to older group of 25 women SHG. Regular Village visit by the women co-ordinator has assisted the women's group to seek solution for various community problems and to strengthen the activities of the groups. The monthly subscription and saving make an improving the economic and lively hood security of the women.

2. WOMENTS DAY CELEBRATION:

On the eve of world day celebration, we had arranged a grant mass, 50 existing, developed women group of 50 target villages have come together at Gandhi kalayana Mandapam, Tirukoilur on 7 April 2001.

The auspicious function was presided over by Thiru Adhi Shankar M.P member parliament, Deputy Collector of Villupuram District, Executive Director of women Development Corporation, Chennai and 5 more local bank managers, co-operative bank peoples and local MLA. S. Sivaraj has participated the programme.

The women mass was exactly 1575 and the day long celebration was ended with simple food and snacks. The cost of the Programme was Rs. 10,500 / - met by local collection and contribution of organized women groups.

3. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CAMP:

Village level Health Campaign have been conducted every Saturday with the active participation of the women and children 47 village have been cleaned of Plastic and waste materials as well as thorny bushes and new sapling planted, diseases by water, (Contaminated water), cleaning stagnated water in front of houses, streets, and backyards, spraying , bleaching powder at village water sources, are our other health oriented works. Increased awareness is evident among the women on the environmental and health hazards of using plastic bags, plastic cups and other non-biodegradable materials.

4. AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS TRAINING :

To facilitate rural small and marginalized farmers with low external inputs and Sustainable agricultural technics. We have conducted various Farmers to farmers Training in 47 of our target Villages.

As a Follow up of it, we organized a small and marginalized farmers unit in each of our (47) largest villages. Sluice level, brook level, apese farmers unit.

5. TAILORING TRAINING:

We run a stable Programme namely Tailoring school in the name of Annai Therasa Samuga Sevai Sanga Tailoring center since 1994, Trough it we have been giving training to 60 girls every year. During the project year we have trained up 60 poor women, they received training in cutting and sewing clothes. On successful completion of training, the women are awarded certificates that can prove useful when seeking professional tailoring employment.

6. SHG MEMBERS LEADERSHIP TRAINING:

Special efforts were taken to strengthen existing women's groups resulting in an increase in human resource development. We have divided the 47 target villages for 1 cluster and conducted Two phase of leadership training Programme 7 days duration each 1) First phase is to core group of each SHG and Second Phase is 3 days follow up Programme.

Resources people from AROCKYA, MADURI, NEW ERA, Net workings were invited, the training cost was met by a marginal amount of NABARD, and organizational contribution.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL CAMP AND RURAL SANITATION PROGRAMME :

Sanitation Programmes have been introduced to improve the quality of life in the villages with the construction of 20 individual house hold latrines in Thanganandal, G. Ariyur, Kottamedu and Chetti Thangal Villages. The funds for construction were provided by the CRSP.

In addition to that we have organized village level environmental camp 15 have been cleaned of plastic and other waste materials as well as thorny bushes and new sapling planted. Growing kitchen garden in front of houses at available places were the special programme. Model Kitchen garden was setup as an demonstration in the environmental camp.

8. CONSUMER PROGRAMME:

On behalf of ATSSS we have organized 12 consumer awareness Programme in 12 of our target villages during the November, December of 2001

Resource group from District consumer court Cuddalore , were invited and made the Programme successful. The Programme was fully supported by the general corpus fund of ATSSS.

9. WASTE LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

a) Geological Survey :

A geological study was carried out by Dr. Kanagasababathy, professor of Geology, and his students to identify the potable water sources in the villages.

b) Desiltation and Rejuvenation of wells:

15 wells have been disilted and cleaned by ATSSS and women's groups measures were taken to provide percolation pits near each well in order to help increase the quality of drinking water as well as to recharge the surrounding ground water areas during the periods of rainfall.

c) Rain water Harvesting:

Rainfall Occurs for only a few months in year followed by a long period of drought in Villupuram District. The adequate availability of potable water is a major problem in the villages in order to promote harvesting of rainwater. Five units of rainwater roof catchments system were constructed in 5 villages.

10. CULTURAL PROGRAMME :

The women's Cultural troupe played an important role in the mass awareness programmes. The concept of communal harmony, environment, health and education were spread through the use of folk songs and street plays. 42 such programmes were conducted so far. This provides good entertainment, gives expression to the cultural heritage of rural communities, and reinforces their own values.

11. YOUTH FORMATION:

To uplift rural educated unemployed youth through Drug-addict, counseling, vocational guidance and identification of odd studies based on their skills. As an initial activity we have formed youth sangha in 5 villages first and imparted orientation, Counseling and leadership training.

12. DRINKING WATER AWARENESS:

An impact assessment of the technology intervention was done which illustrated the enormous value of the system in meeting the community drinking water requirements. People are motivated to use water carefully and save the elizir.

13. AIDS AWARENESS CAMP:

Aids awareness programmes have been conducted to improve quality of life in villages and make them alert of its dangerousness. Public meeting, seminar,

posters, street plays were the method of communication. Resource people from Arokia, Arasaradi, Madurai were the guest lectures in 10 of our programmes.

Apart from the above ATSSS is a partner NGO with AROKYA, Madurai, in their collaboration, we are giving Aids awareness training to the core groups of 30 of our women SHG, such is the one year duration of Programme, started 31st July 2001. Arokia has come forward to support one of our staff's salary for 12 months for the propagation work.

14. SCAVANGERS SANITARY TRAINING:

This is the Programme being to be funded by District Rural Development Agency THATCO, Collectorate campus villupuram. Initially we have completed the first phase of training with identified 25 scavengers entrepreneur. It was the 15 days of programme, DRDA Resource people came forward to conduct the training for 15 days duration of Block development office, Tirukoilur. Each trainee scavenger was provided with Rs. 250/- stipend by THATCO. As a Follow-up of the earliest Second Phase of training is going to be commenced. Followed by they will be supported with Rs. 4,00,000/- (Lacks) for starting sanitary mart in Thirukoilur.

The identified scavenger group has been registered under Tamilnadu Society act 27 of 1975 and are the formal work is done to receive the loan support of 4 lacks.

Conclusion:

These are the activities done by ATSSS during the reporting period of 2000-2001. Actually ATSSS has not yet received any Marginal Money from foreign and simply run with available local support and board members support. ATSSS need heaping hands for its innovative set out future activities. We solicits kind hearted people in our efforts.

15. SO FAR OUR FUNDING PARTINERS:

- 1) District Rural Dev. Agency, District Collectorate Office, Villupuram for Tailoring Training programme since 1995.
- 2) IRDP, Block development Office.
- 3) State welfare Board, Chennai.
- 4) THATCO, VILLUPURAM for Tailoring and Sanitary mart Programme.

16. FUTURE PARTNERS:

- 1) Tamilnadu Women's Development Corporation, TWDCO
100 Annasalai, Guindy, Chennai.