

CORD Siruvani
Narrative report of activities during October, November & December 2011

HARI OM

With Poojya Gurudev's Grace and Poojya Guruji's Blessings, the following activities took place in CORD Siruvani during this period.

Medical :

Month	Number of patients	Preventive medicine	Special camps	Blood and other tests and remarks
October	350	Hepatitis B vaccination; Pap smears; life-style modifications for high cholesterol levels; awareness regarding hygiene, preventable illnesses and many carcinogens	Eye camp, in collaboration with Eye Foundation; 105 treated; 17 cataracts corrected; 9 other interventions	Hypercholesterolemia, hypertension and Diabetes Mellitus detected in many young people.
November	400	Same as above	Eye camp along with Sankara Eye Centre; 121 treated; 27 plus 3 underwent surgeries for cataract etc.	Same as above
December	350	Same as above	Follow-up on the 30 patients operated by Sankara Eye Centre Week-long dental screening and treatment camp-- details below	Same as above; Many of the children in the villages had a lovely time learning from and interacting with the CHYKs from all over the world.



Dentists Dr Amol, Dr Dhanya, Dr Divya and Dr Subha hard at work

From the 17th Dec to 23rd Dec, a free dental camp was conducted in CORD office in Thenamanallur on all the days and in CRDC in Nallurvayal on one day. During this camp, a total of 150 patients underwent dental check up, cleaning (scaling), filling, extraction, referral and dental advice. Every patient was shown the proper brushing techniques. Dr. Jeyaraj, a senior orthodontist from Coimbatore kindly donated a dental chair. Dentists Dr. Subha (from Madampatti, Coimbatore) Dr. Dhanya (CHYK from Melbourne), Dr. Dhivya (CHYK from London) and Dr. Amol (CHYK from London) worked nonstop from 7 am to 8 pm to provide excellent dental care to the patients. The materials and instruments for the dental camp were either brought by the CHYK's or paid for by them. A lot of tooth paste, floss and tooth brushes were also donated by the CHYK dentists and Chinmaya Niagara yatri. These were distributed during the camp and also will be given in the Mahila Mandals and BalaVihars. The dental care will be provided on a monthly basis. Our CORD workers chipped in with all the extra seva involved and Shri. Gunasekharan and Shri. Ratnam (both drivers) were converted into excellent dental assistants.

Mahila Mandal :

- The routine activities of all the Mahila Mandals continued.
- Some MM members got elected to the local bodies.
- The Navartri Pooja was organized in a much better manner this year--much more participatory and decentralized.
- Special activities in November revolved around the sports and cultural competitions held for children and women to mark Children's Day
- In the month of December, the major cultural get-together on 29th was significant.



The children taking a vow to keep their village clean





Children's Day Special

Navaratri Pooja was organized and celebrated for 10 days from the 28th of September till the 7th of October, in Thennamanallur, Puthur, Kallimedu and Sandhegoundanpalayam. Children and adults participated enthusiastically. Prasadam was sponsored by the villagers.

Kumari Umamaheshwari, ex-president of the Thenamanallur MM was awarded the **best youth award in Coimbatore district** for her contribution in the field of sanitation & environment , culture, education , health and social cordiality. She received a cash price of Rs. 5,000/-. A medal and a certificate was awarded to her at a function held in Bishop Appaswamy college on the 14th Dec.

Free training courses in Computers, electrical, tailoring were conducted by NYK.

On the 29th December, a cultural programme was organized by CORD at short notice, in the Thennamanallur Mariamman Temple premises. Around 150 women from various Mahila Mandals and a 150 children from the different Balavihars of CORD Siruvani participated in this programme. Several farmers, the Panchayat President and the Ward members came to encourage the women and children.

After a lot of cajoling, the women had got ready songs and folk dances like the Baduga (local tribal), Kummi and Mariamman dance. Those who did not participate this time, promised to prepare and perform on the International Women's Day celebration. The children were wonderful. They were trained by the volunteers Kum. Poorani, Kum. Ashraya and Kum. Ashritha , daughters of Smt. Vidhya and Sri Kumar from Melbourne. The sisters who are trained dancers volunteered in CORD for a week from the 25th to the 31st of December. They worked non-stop to teach almost 150 students ,dances and

Bhajans. They also visited many villages to teach the children and interact with the women. They taught the CORD workers English, and acted as interpreters during the visits of the Global CHYKs to the CORD villages. They were assisted by Kum. Karthyayini, the dance teacher from Chinmaya P M Swamy School, Coimbatore. Kum. Karthyayini also came during the holidays. CORD workers, along with the dance teachers made the children rehearse to perfection. The make-up was managed by the volunteers and other women from the village. The programme was a grand success due to efforts of all the people.



The Cultural Programme in Thennamanallur Mariamman Temple Grounds

S H G : All the 70 SHGs have functioned well; three SHGs got their loans. All the SHGs repaid their loans and conducted regular meetings. They were monitored and books of accounts were checked by the CORD workers. Stalls were put up in

Gandhipuram, Main Bus stop where products from various SHGs from all of Coimbatore were displayed and sold. The CORD SHG products were displayed and sold from 15th of September to 15th of October. Rs. 4000 worth of things were sold.

During Anand Utsav, SHG products of CORD Sidhbari and CORD Siruvani were sold by the CIRS children. The children also made pain balm and the proceeds were given to CORD Siruvani. The children also made herbal mosquito repellent and displayed methods of making Panchagavya, vermicompost, water conservation, water purification and waste segregation.



Awareness programme for the non-credit-linked SHGs

A one-day awareness programme was conducted for the non-credit-linked SHGs on book-keeping and how a good SHG should be run. Senior Manager from IOB and City Union Bank addressed the women.



Chinmaya SriSakthi at the Block Level competitions

In November, four SHGs got their loans—Chinmaya Brindavan, Imayam, Srilakshmi and Sree SiddhiVinayagar. All the SHGs repaid their loans and conducted regular meetings. They were monitored and books of accounts were checked by the CORD workers. The sale of various SHG products like pain balm, sanitary napkins, incense sticks, phenyl, soap oil and acid has improved. The Chinmaya Schools in Coimbatore are buying the cleaning materials from our SHGs.

In December, one new SHG called Chinmaya Pongiamman has been started. Another SHG called Poorani has joined CORD to be guided by us. 5 SHG's got their loans and others are being processed. CORD workers participated in the VKT meeting and interacted with the officer appraising him of the various problems and providing solutions. On the 30th of Dec, competitions in Rangoli, singing, dance and debate were

held for SHG's in the Thondamuthur Block Development office. The attendance was very poor and only around 70 women participated. Chinmaya Shreesakthi SHG from Thennamanallur got the first prize in singing, second price in Rangoli and third price in dance and debate. They will participate in singing competition at district level to be held in Jan 2012.

Balavihar : A total of 15 Balavihars were conducted by CORD workers and volunteers. The children from more than 10 villages interacted with the Global CHYKs and with the Chinmaya Mission, Niagara Yattris again. The CHYKs brought a lot of Fun material to make the Balavihars interesting. Proper brushing techniques were shown with the help of puppets and toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes were given to the children. The children also participated in the Cultural Programme on the 29th Dec 2011.



Balavihar

Agriculture :

During October, NABARD Asst. Gen. Manager R Inigo Arul Selvan and IOB Regional Manager Sri Vijayakumar graced the joint Farmer's Club meeting. The Field Officers of the Agri Extension Office and the Marketing Manager were present. The details of the various loans like dairy-loan, solar-heater scheme and solar lighting and drip irrigation were told in great detail. One of the farmer's clubs, got Rs. 15000 for capacity-building under the ATMA scheme.



Azola cultivation



Bee-keeping



Interaction with the Pollachi farmers

During November, forms have been got from the Coconut Development Board for insuring coconut tree climbers. The three Farmer's Clubs had their separate meetings as usual. The joint Farmer's Club meeting was held on the 15th of November, when Mr Sengottaiyan from Jain Irrigation spoke to the 55 farmers who attended the meeting. He told about the various advantages of the drip irrigation, the subsidy scheme and other technicalities. Details about what was learnt during the Pollachi trip, from the Asst. Horticulture Officer Smt. Rajamani, and Dr Sivakumar, Asst. Veterinary Surgeon were shared with the farmers present. Sri Kannanji and his team from CORD Tamaraipakkam interacted with the farmers.

Dr Meera attended a meeting conducted in Thennamanallur to teach growing the biofertilizer VAM(Vesicular Arbuscular Mycorrhiza). The program is sponsored by the Ratan Tata Trust.

Ten farmers have applied for dairy loans in the local banks, facilitated by CORD.

On the 25th November, a seminar was held on Integrated Pest control in TNAU. Many farmers from our Farmer's clubs attended the programme and found it very useful. Information gathered from various departments by the CORD workers was shared with the farmers.

In December, the farmers have applied for subsidy for various crops with the Agricultural Office. They were informed that the "Coconut Tree Climber's Insurance form' is available at the CORD Office and the requirements to fill the forms were also given. On the 15th Dec, the joint Farmer's Meeting was held, attended by around 60 farmers. Sri A Chandrashekar, spoke about the benefits of using APSA—All Purpose Spray Adjuvant—which is a non-ionic surfactant spreader, activator for use as a wetting agent. It helps the water percolate the soil and reduces the need for fertilisers. Many farmers who have tried it, find it useful. The Marketing Manager of VeSAT enterprises, demonstrated various solar lamps and solar water heaters and spoke of the benefits of using solar energy.

Yuva and Yuvathi:

A meeting was organized in Alandurai by Sri Guna, CORD worker to revive a Yuva club. The benefits and procedure of forming a Yuva club and registering it with Nehru Yuva Kendra and Tamilnadu Govt. was explained. The youth are actively pursuing what needs to be done. In December, the Youth in seven areas interacted with the global CHYKs and the feedback was very good. Mr Manikantan, from Nehru Yuva Kendra has been coming often to motivate the youth from nearby villages to form Youth Clubs. Under the guidance of Sri Mahendran of Kondayampalayam, the youth and the Chinmaya Yattris planted around 20 saplings in Kondayampalayam.



The Youth club meeting in Alandurai

Umamaheshwari receiving the award

Educational and Job opportunities :

The tuition classes have continued as before. 10-12 children from Puthur of all standards came regularly on all holidays to improve their reading and writing skills. Hence the number of volunteers required to coach them was high. Mr Jagannathan, who owns the CORD Office premises, is coming every Sunday and teaching the children. Smt. Vembu, a retired teacher, is coming every Sunday and teaching the children.

The typewriting classes for children and adults are continuing. For the typing classes, around 25 students are coming for the 6-month course, either in the early morning or the evening sections. Sri Duraisamy sees to it that they put in adequate effort to become proficient.

Tailoring classes have been started in CORD office premises where ten women are learning tailoring from Monday to Thursday. Every Saturday , a crash course in tailoring is being conducted for teachers. Smt. Lavanya, the teacher is very diligent and the students are very enthusiastic. They are paying the teacher Rs.150 per month. CORD is providing the place and the tailoring machines. Their children are kept occupied in the CORD office by the toys and games available.



Tailoring class in progress

Awareness and Interactions including Exposure Visits:

In October. 100 women attended the awareness programme conducted in Thondamuthur and organized by CORD and Bharatiar University. Sri Elangovan, Engineer from the PWD showed various slides to highlight the ways in which our water, soil and air are being polluted. He stressed the importance of stopping this pollution before it is too late. It was a very interactive session.

On the 2nd of November, all the newly elected councillors(many from our SHGs) and the SHG members attended the Gram Sabha meeting.

On the 10th Nov 2011, CORD workers and Ms Akila Kannadasan of The Hindu visited Perumpathi village in Pollachi. Mr P Thiruvengadam, President of Pasumai Farmer's Club took us around and told us about their Farmers' Club activities. Their Farmer's Club got the Best Farmer's Club award in Tamilnadu for two consecutive years. We interacted with the farmers and learnt about various farming techniques and animal husbandry.

On the 16th of November, CORD Siruvani and CORD Tamaraiakkam workers attended a Tobacco prevention awareness programme conducted in a local school by another NGO. The material got there has been used to conduct similar programmes in other places.

On the 25th of November, Dr Meera addressed around 35 teachers who had come for an orientation programme to Bharatiar University. She spoke on the role of NGOs in

Women Empowerment. Dr Meera was invited as the Guest of Honour for the Certificate distribution function organized by the Rotary Club of Coimbatore Tex City and PSG Polytechnic College. Under the “Community Development through Polytechnics” scheme, men and women who had undergone training in computer operations and tailoring received their certificates. This opportunity was used to educate the assembled people on various preventive health issues and sanitation.

The CORD Tamaraipakkam team headed by Sri Kannanji visited CORD Siruvani between 15th and 17th of November and interacted with our workers and the villagers. They participated in the various programmes that took place. It was a mutually learning experience.

On the 2nd of December, villagers and CORD workers attended the Special Gram Sabha meeting.

On the 11th of December, an awareness programme was conducted for the Ikkaiboluvampatti village women (next Panchayat) in the VKT office. Smt. Amudha, the VKT coordinator arranged the programme. CDs were shown on toilet building, sanitation, plastics segregation and tobacco cessation.

Around 170 NSS students from Govt. Arts college, Coimbatore conducted a camp in Thennamanallur from the 26th to the 31st of December. The students were very disciplined and sincere and cleaned all the four villages, conducted a medical camp and cultural and awareness programmes every evening. They interacted with CORD workers which was mutually beneficial.

Nearly 200 members of the Global CHYK camp visited five CORD villages on the 31st December (the last day of the camp). They were divided into five groups to interact with children, adolescent boys, adolescent girls, men and women. This division was necessary because the information to be got from the groups and the information to be provided to the groups would differ. The planning for this interaction was started at least 3 months ago when the prime movers—Dr Dhanya Sivathan and Sri Shanthakumar Banneerchelvam, CHYKs from Melbourne corresponded with Dr Meera several times by e-mail. Sri Shanthakumar was very meticulous in organizing the groups, finding out what CORD wanted from the CHYKs and the villagers. Questionnaires were given to the CHYKs. Their interactions with the 400 odd villagers gave a lot of vital information about what the villagers thought about CORD Siruvani and their expectations. The CHYKs interacted with Dr Meera and gave their individual feedback. The information will be collated by the team leaders and sent to CORD Siruvani.

The Chinmaya Yatris from the Chinmaya Mission, Niagara, came again on the 1st and 2nd of January 2012. The New Year began with the doctors in their team visiting bed-ridden patients in Thennamanallur village and also checking blood pressure in the Thennamanallur Gandhi and Ambedkar colonies. In the evening, they attended the Vadivelampalayam Mahila Mandal and thereafter the Sennanoor Mahila Mandal. The dances they taught the children were performed in the Mahila Mandals. Acharya Vivek gave an inspiring and encouraging talk. The Yatris also interacted with the Youth and the Children in both the places. The next day, they attended Kallimedu Mahila Mandal. The villagers were very enthused with their coordination, discipline and rapport with all sections of the people.

Sanitation:

Thiruvalluvar Mahila Mandal workers and CORD workers cleaned the premises of Thondamuthur Primary Health Centre.

Community-Based Rehabilitation:

Smt. Pushpavalli of Chinmaya Thayathal developed paraparesis suddenly and had to be admitted. After discharge, she underwent physiotherapy helped by Sri Senthil.

Volunteers:

- Sri Senthil, Physiotherapist in Ganga Hospital helped with the eye camp and gave physiotherapy to patients
- Sri Duraisamy, typing instructor, helped with giving tuition to the children.
- Sri Jagannathan, helped with the Balavihar
- Smt. Kamala, a retired teacher helped teach the children patriotic and other songs.
- Sri Krishnan, CM member, is helping with the Balavihar and tuition classes in Kalikanayakanpalayam.
- Smt. Vanaja, local volunteer helped teach the children dance and coordinated with the other volunteers.
- Smt. Vanitha, who has shifted to Coimbatore from Detroit has been volunteering twice a week and helping with teaching the CORD workers and other resource persons Bhajans, English and other activities for Balavihar.. She also helped with the cultural programme and getting this monthly report ready.
- Sri Ravishankar, a CHYK from Kalpettah, Kerala volunteered for a week and helped teach English and computers to the Om Sakthi School students in batches. His father, himself a Balavihar Sevak, came and interacted with the CORD workers about conducting Balavihar.



Kum. Poorani, Ashritha and Ashraya, volunteers from Melbourne with the children



Many Volunteers make light work



Smt. Vanitha helping with the 'make-up'



Global CHYK Camp participants interacting with all villagers in several villages





Contact :

Dr Meera Krishna
Coordinator
CORD Siruvani
4/109, Boluvampatti Main Road,
Thennamanallur Post,
Coimbatore—641 109
Tamilnadu, INDIA
Phone : 99421 17357
0422-2906164
e-mail : CORDsiruvani@gmail.com

HARI OM