

C O R D

THAMARAIPAKKAM

Comprehensive Integrated Rural Development Project In ThamaraiPakkam, Thiruvallur District , Tamil Nadu.

Report for the Year ended 31st March 2008.

Our Role & Approach:

Rural Development Work involves consistent and continuous work with dedication and perseverance to ensure that results are sustainable. Sustainable development happens when there is participation of the beneficiaries in the programs and the ownership rests with them.

The successive governments both at the Centre and at Tamil Nadu have launched several schemes for rural development. But whether the benefits of these Schemes have reached rural masses is still a question mark. In this scenario the role of NGOs like CORD is very vital in rendering these governmental schemes known to the public and help the eligible people get the benefits fully and promptly.

Towards this end, we at CORD ThamaraiPakkam work in close coordination with the officials of Block Development Office of Ellapuram Block, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Thiruvallur District Manager of District Lead Bank and other banks in our area. We have established good rapport and relationship with these officials..

Development of any community would mainly involve improving the conditions of life in the most vital layers of the society viz. Women & Children & Youth .So our work was focused on:

- ❖ Empowerment of **Women**
- ❖ Training & Development of **Children & Youth**
- ❖ **Creating Awareness** among them on Social issues like Adult Literacy Public Sanitation & Hygiene etc
- ❖ **Net Working with other like-minded NGOs** working in Rural Development & allied fields

Net Working with other like-minded NGOS:

❖ NATIONAL AGRO FOUNDATION (N A F)

Started by the late Bharat Ratna Sri.C.Subramaniam is today a leading NGO in tamil Nadu working for the second Green Revolution and to energize the Rural India.

Their resources on **organic farming** and **Integrated Rural Development** would be helpful for our Chinmaya Farmers Clubs and Women's Self Help Group.

We had couple meetings with Sri.SS Rajasekar (son of Sri.C.Subramaniam) thanks to an introduction from his good friend Sri.V.Sethuram, former Chairman of Chinmaya Mission, Chennai. Sri.Rajasekar has promised us all possible help and guidance in our work. We plan to organize an Exposure Visit of members of our Chinmaya Farmers Club to NAF's Model farm in Chunnampet.

❖ ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS –MIDTOWN, CHENNAI

Many office members and members of this Rotary Club are well wishers and supporters Of CORD at Thamaraiakkam. They have pledged support to our work particularly for **Vocational Training for Women**.

This Club spear-headed a combined meeting of our Magalir Mandrams at Thamaraiakkam on the Vocational training on 31st October 2007.

The Club is sponsoring mulch cows to our Members of our Women's SHGs as a source of Income Generation.

❖ EXNORA INTERNATIONAL - CHENNAI

Sri.M.B.NIRMAL, the Founder and President of Exnora International Chennai is a well known Social Activist works on various issues like Environment, Elimination of Wastes ,Global Warming etc.

was the Chief Guest at our celebrations of INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY at Thamaraiakkam on the 12th March 2008.

Sri.Nirmal and **Sri. Indira Kumar** ,President of Home Exnora Chennai have agreed to be associated with our Work.

Empowerment of Women:

Chinmaya Women's SHGs & Magalir Mandrams:

Our Self-help Groups have grown into self-reliant entities. Most of the facilitators are now managing the Book-keeping, Banking and other record keeping efficiently with minimal help from our staff. Our Staff Sri.Loganathan and Smt.Lalitha have been imparting training to the Leaders of SHGs periodically. Leaders of some more Groups are to be trained.

The Status of the Groups as at end March 2008 and their finances are tabulated below:

Type	No of Women's Self Help Groups
SC/ST	21
BC/MBC	27
Mixed	10
Total in 32 Villages spread over 4 Blocks in 7 Panchayaths	58
No of Members	870
Total Savings (Approximately)	Rs.28.50 Lacs
Total Internal Loans (Approximate)	Rs.58.86 Lacs

Twenty Four Groups were graded by UCO Bank Velliyur and are awaiting grants from the Government. This requires constant follow up with the BDO's office and our staff are working for this.

There are four Magalir Mandrams (Mahila Mandals) functioning in Thamaraiakkam Panchayath.

Our Field Workers Sri Loganathan, Smt.Lalitha and Sri.M.Vijayakumar regularly attend the Meetings of these Women Groups in turns and address them besides

Empowerment of Women:
Capacity Building & Income Generation Activities

❖ Paper Carry Bag Units:

Our staff have trained another SHG in Sivanvoyal village in making these bags Now these Groups regularly supply .Paper Carry bags to Sarveswara Dhyana Nilayam for sale of Archana materials to devotees and to Chinmaya Mission Book Stall in Chennai.

With the help of Youth and Men folk of Sivanvoyal this activity is going on a continuous basis.

❖ Wax Artifices and Scented Sticks Making:

Two groups who had attended training given by master crafts men last year have taken up making these products and sell them to shops in the Village besides to the members' household. Their Products are purchased by Sarveswara Dhyana Nilayam and are displayed and sold at Chinmaya Mission Book Store in Chennai.

❖ Retail Vending - Fish, Vegetables, Flowers & Fruits:

Members of Chinmaya SHGs in Permal Koil street (a Dalits Colony) in Thamaraiykkam have taken up vending of various products on the Pavements and the Road-dividers on the Thamaraiykkam X Roads. Thanks to the availability of funds pooled through their regular savings accumulated in the Bank, they procure the Products from the whole sale market in the city by taking turns. All of them have good earnings and are no longer in the clutches of local money lenders.

Two members of Chinmaya Jyothi SHG, Ammanampakkam have started cool drinks stall.

Empowerment of Women:
Capacity Building & Income Generation Activities

❖ 3 Weeks Training on Fancy Jute Bags Making:

From 9th April 2007 to 4th May 2007 a **three weeks** Training Program on '**Basic Training in Fancy Jute Bags**' was organized by us at Sarveswara Dhyana Nilayam Thamaraiakkam .under sponsorship of the National Council for Jute Diversification (NCJD), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, Kolkatta, and Southern Regional office of JMDC at Chennai.

The Master Trainers were provided by the Jute Service Centre of PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore. The sewing machines were provided free of charge by Sri.Vijay Mehtani (Trustee, CORD) from his Garments Export Unit (ACL) in Chennai. **Thirty women** participated actively in the Training Course and were awarded Training Completion Certificate by JSC.PSG College of technology,Coimbatore. A large variety (20 items) of products were produced by the trainees with minimal wastage during the training sessions.

For the Valedictory function we had invited (besides the officials of NCJD & JMDC), Sri.T.Paraeswaran, District Lead Bank Manager, Thiruvallur District and Capt.C.Dayalan, then Manager, UCO Bank Velliyur . These Bank officials have promised to help the Group to stat a Business venture in making & marketing Jute Fancy Bags and other fancy items.

A small group of prospective enthusiastic entrepreneurs has emerged and the process of Project Report for this was prepared. The group is now working on locating suppliers of machinery, identification of suitable premises.. This unit was planned for launch in February 2008 but due to transfer of UCO Bank Manager Capt.Dayalan who was a guiding force ,the project is getting delayed.

Empowerment of Women:
Capacity Building & Income Generation Activities

❖ ***Chinmaya Tailoring Training Centre (CTTC):***

Chinmaya Tailoring Training Centre (CTTC) started on Vijaya Dasami 2006 with eleven Tailoring Machines, has so far trained 62 women in three batches through a Six Months Course . The classes are conducted by a trained Lady Instructor for three hours from 2 PM Monday to Saturday.

They are taught stitching Blouses, Petticoats, Churidar Sets and Kids Skirts. On successful completion of training the Students are issued proficiency certificates.

Four of the students of the first batch have started earning additional income by working at home stitching blouses etc in their village.

Training Programmes:

Our Volunteers were sponsored to attend the Career Preparatory Workshops at Science City, Guindy, Chennai

.Name of Volunteers	Workshop topic	Dates
Sri.Pandeswaran	Career Prospects in Bio Technology	4 th & 5 th July 2007
Ms.S,Rathi, Ms.B.Devi Ms.R.Eswari & Ms.Remya	Para Medical Sciences & Your Career	24 th & 25 th September 2007

**Training at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's
Urban Horticulture Extension Centre ,Chennai**

.Name of Participant	Workshop topic	Dates
Smt.Susheela (SHG Member) Smt.Selvi (SHG Member) Sri.M.Vijayakumar (Staff)	Vermi Compost preparation	28 th November 2007

Empowerment of Women:
Capacity Building & Income Generation Activities

❖ **'MAGALIR MANAM VAI THAL MUDIYUM' A Seminar in Tamil on 'VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR WOMEN'-**

Rotary Club of Madras- Midtown organised the Seminar for members of our Chinmaya Magalir Mandrams on 31st October 2007 at Chinmaya Arangam Thamaraiakkam. .About 350 women had participated very actively.

Rtn. PDG.Sri. 'Abhirami' S, V.Rm.Ramanathan, Rtn.PDG.Dr.CS Ramachandran addressed the women exhorting them to stand on their own legs and start working to earn additional income for the family. Their Talks were highly inspiring. The women came out with volley of questions expressing their concern on the vocational avenues open to them and sources of finance & marketing..

The main technical speaker was Dr,R,Natarajan who was till recently the Joint Director (Training) of Industries & Commerce with the Govt. of Tamil Nadu. He is an expert Management Consultant in starting new ventures. He gave a detailed presentation on starting a small / medium scale venture. The women spent at least an hour with Dr.Natarajan clearing their doubts on entrepreneurship
Rtn.PP Sri.M.Keshav introduced the speakers and also compeered the entire proceedings.

At the end of the Session Sri.SV.RM Ramanathan announced a personal grant of Rupees One Lacs for buying Mulch Cows for income generation of SHG Members and it was matched by another grant of Rupees Fifty Thousands from the Rotary Club.

❖ **CELEBRATION of INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

This year Chinmaya Magalir Mandrams observed the IWD on the 12th March 2008. We had the privilege of participation by our National Director Dr.Kshama Metre who spoke on Women's rights and the Role of Magila Mandals in HP .

The Main speaker was Sri.M.B.Nirmal the Founder of Exnora International ,Chennai. His talk in Tamil was mainly directing the Women to rise in unison against the evil of Alcoholism and eradicate it from the society.

Sri.B.Indrakumar President of Home Exnora gave a very interesting presentation on how even a small house can be converted into Green Home with 'Zero Waste' utilizing every bit of a waste .

Empowerment of Women:
Capacity Building & Income Generation Activities

❖ ***Micro Insurance:***

During its Golden Jubilee Year 2006 ,*LIC Of India*, at the instance of President Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam, launched a ‘poor man’s’ insurance policy named ‘***JEEVAN MADHUR Micro Insurance Policy***’ designed to extend Life Insurance cover to the very poor people at low premium rates. Anyone between 18 years and 60 years of age can take up the Policy with terms varying from 5 years to 15 years. The Minimum Policy amount could be Rs.5000 and the Maximum is Rs.30,000/-. The Minimum Premium can even be Rs..25 payable weekly, bi-weekly monthly, quarterly ,half-yearly or annual basis. There is no Medical check up for the Policy

The Marketing of these Policies is carried out through ‘Specified Persons’ working under NGOs involved in social development and service.

Three of our staff , three volunteer youth and fourteen women SHG members underwent two day training programme conducted by LIC Officials at our Centre. Out of these 20 trainees, six women have taken up this work with great commitment.

Besides helping the fellow members of their own community to get Life Insurance Cover / Regular savings , these women also earn a commission @ 10% on the Premium collected by them.

So far the six ‘Specified Persons’ sold 212 Policies valued over Rs.42 Las.

Empowerment of Women: **Panchayathi Raj**

Members of 'Chinmaya Magalir Suya Udhavi Kuzhu's attend the *Gram Sabha* Meetings in their respective Panchayaths and raise issues concerning them like water supply, sanitation, supply of essential commodities in the ration shops etc

A few of our SHG Members contested the Panchayath elections. Three members of our SHGs ,Smt.Elamathi Thiruvekatam (Animator of Chinmaya Kaveri SHG, Tamaraipakkam), Smt.T.S.Manjula (Animator of Chinmaya Thillothamma SHG, Velliyur) and Smt,Devi (Lakshmi SHG,Tamaraipakkam)were elected as Ward Members of Panchayaths

Empowerment of Women: **Adult Literacy Drive**

The *Adult Literacy* program is taken up in Tamaraipakkam .We collaborate with 'Arivoli Iyakkam' (Light of Knowledge) a program of Tamil Nadu Government. The books and Charts provided by them are used to teach Tamil reading and writing. The girls and boys who have attended Higher Secondary School teach the elders in their own family on a one to one basis at their own space. We are propagating this Scheme which has to go a long way as the simple adult women do not realize the benefits of literacy.

For women who have studied up to the Primary School level are encouraged to expand their knowledge base with providing them with books in simple Tamil on different topics.

It is planned to start a *Rural Library of Tamil Books* for enhancing the general knowledge and exposure on subjects of practical application for the benefit of women who can read Tamil.

Sri.Kamalayan, District Coordinator, **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan** addressed or Magalir Mandram Members on 11.10.2007 on " LITERACY- A FUNDAMENTAL NEED" and promised all help in our Adult Literacy Drive.

Training & Development of Children & Youth: Chinmaya Tuition Centres:

Chinmaya Tuition Centres which have become very popular are now being run at SIX Locations in two villages:

Village	Location of the Centre	No. of Students
Tamaraipakkam	Sarveswara Dhyana Nilayam	50
-do-	Perumal Kovil Street	35
Komakkambedu	In a Private House	65
Magaral Kandigai	Near Perumal Temple	50
Total	Classes 1 to 9 th Std.	200

Local Girls who have passed Plus 2 examination teach the students of these Centres between 5 PM to 7 PM, Monday to Saturdays. On Saturdays Chinmaya Balvihar Classes are conducted at the respective Centres.

Special Programs for Tuition Centre Students:

- All the students joined together at Sarveswara Dhyana Nilayam to celebrate Independence Day, Chinmaya Jayanthi., Krishna Jayanthi, & Ganesh Chaturthi. Summer Camp 'Kodayil Vasantham' was organised at Sarveswara Dhyana Nilayam, Tamaraipakkam to help them to spend the summer vacation in a fruitful manner.
- Green Boards, Electrical Fluorescent Lamps and Floor Mats were provided at all the Centres.
- In celebration of the 60th Independence Day, a **Cultural Event** was organized on 18th August 2007 at Komakkambedu Village Square in front of the Mariamman Temple. It was virtually a **Grama Balmahotsav** in which the Students all the three centres participated and exhibited their talents in music, dance and drama. Over 500 people comprising the students, their parents and villagers assembled to witness the show.. 'Chundal' and 'Sakkarai Pongal' Prasadm was distributed to all. Br Sadasiva Chaitanya, Sri.P.N.Kannan, Smt.Saroja and Sri.K.Y.Gaitonde from Sarveswara Dhyana Nilayam watched the Cultural events and blessed the Students.

In response to persistent demands for a Chinmaya Tuition Centre and assurances of support from parents of the village, a new Tuition Centre at the Magaral Kandigai Village was launched on the Vijayadasami day in Oct. 2007.

Training & Development of Children & Youth: Balvihar Classes:

Along with the Chinmaya Tuition Centres, *Chinmaya Bolivar Classes* are also conducted by our Staff and Volunteers for the benefit of Village children.

Two of our staff and ten volunteers were nominated to attend the Balvihar Sevaks Training Programmes conducted by Chinmaya Mission, Chennai on four consecutive Saturdays in July/August 2007.

In view of the tremendous response from the Children & Parents of the villages to our Balvihar classes & Tuition Centres, to inculcate Values & Ethics in the children, we acquired a collection of **25 VCDs in Tamil** on Puranic Lore (like Ramayana, Krishna, Hanuman etc), Patriotic Stories on Heros like Chatrapathi Shivaji and simple value texts like 'Thirukural' & 'Athichudi' besides Nursery Rhymes in Tamil and Bhajans. These are screened from time to time using LCD Projector donated by devotees of Chinmaya Mission Centre in Langhorne PA USA.

Students from the tuition Centres and Balvihar kids assembled at Sarveswara Dhyana Nilayam early in the morning on the 15th August 2007 to extend an affectionate welcome to **Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji** and to witness the hoisting the National flag by him. Pujya Guruji who was visiting the Thamaraiykkam Ashram to inaugurate the 3rd Yuva Veer Training Program. The Children were all served with Breakfast Snacks sponsored by Sri.M.Murali of Sree Krishna Sweets, Chennai.

Training & Development of Children & Youth (Contd)- 3 Day Summer Camps for the Kids:

During the Summer vacation, a 'Cool Camp' in Tamil was organized for our Balvihar Kids & Tuition Centre students. The Camp titled '**KODAYIL VASANTHAM**' (Spring in Summer) at Sarveswara Dhyana Nilayam from 4th to 6th August 2007. The response was heartening with 183 Kids joining the Camp paying a nominal contribution of Rs10 per head

Besides sessions by senior Balvihar Sevakas from Chennai Smt.Bhanumathi Bhikkaji and Smt.Chitra Ganesan, sessions were taken by Yuva Veers Sri.Ganesan & Yuva Veer Krishna Kumar and Yuva Veer Vijaya Kumar organized various Workshop Sessions, Activities and Games.

There was also demonstration of Multi dimensional abilities and memory skills (Ashtavadanam) titled '**Gavanagam**' by Sri.Kalaichezhiyan (a young Research Scholar for his Ph.D in Tamil Literature) from Chennai whose session was really inspiring for the youngsters. He explained such skills of memory can be developed by constant practice of the power of concentration.

There was also screening of the Tamil Version of the Movie 'Hanuman' which was enjoyed very much by the kids.

On the second day of the camp, *M/s. Nestle India Ltd* sponsored serving freshly cooked Noodles & 'Milo' a health drink to all the Children as after-noon snacks. All the participants were also issued Camp Kit in a denim shoulder bag (the fabric for which was provided by *M/s. Ambattur Clothing Ltd., Chennai*).

Training & Development of Youth : **Chinmaya Yuva Clubs**

Arising out of the synergy of Chinmaya Women's SHGs, three Yuva Clubs are formed:

- Chinmaya Elya Bharatham Elaingar Mandram,
at Perumal Koil Street ,Thamaraipakkam.
- Chinmaya Vels Yuva Club.
At Koottu Road, Ammanapakkam
- Challengers Yuva Club
At Pagal Medu Village (Registered with Nehru Yuva Kendra).

Chinmaya Elya Bharatham Elaingar Mandram have plans to start a free Reading Room for the youth of the Village in the SHG Building at Peruma Koil Street..

On Chinmaya Jayanthi day (08.05.2007), a Blood donation camp was organized by Chinmaya Vels Yuva Club at Radha Ravi Kalyana Mandapam , Koottu Road, Ammanampakkam in collaboration with the Lions Club Blood Bank, Chennai. Forty donors donated blood during the Camp.

CHINMAYA VELS YOUTH CLUB have started few unique projects. Every member who has acquired some special skill will take up imparting the same skill to one more youth in the Village:

1. Spoken English
2. Tuitions for Students studying in Stds upto VII.
3. Collecting old clothes and distributing to the needy

CHINMAYA YUVA KENDRA SARVESWARA **@ Thamaraiykkam**

. 'Come on Indians' – A Youth Festival to celebrate our Great Traditions of India on the 3rd August 2007 to observe the Aradhana of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda.

CORD Volunteers & Staff worked with the CHYKs in organizing this event in which 450 students from 18 Colleges in Thiruvallur district participated in competitions for Music, Dance, Skits, Oratory to present the greatness of Indian Culture, Tradition.

A Video Report on this event was telecast on 15th August 2007 on the popular SS Music TV Channel which included a short interview with Sri.P.N.kannan, Director ,CORD, Thamaraiykkam .

Training & Development of Youth (Contd) : **-Chinmaya Youth Camps**

A Youth Camp was organized at Adi Sankara Nilayam of Chinmaya International Foundation, Veliyanad, Kerala was organized from 13.07.2007 to 15.07.2007 with ***Brahmachari Ramana Chaitanya*** of Chinmaya Mission, Chennai as the Acharya. Twenty Volunteers and three staff members of CORD, Thamaraiykkam attended the **Attitude Building camp** held in Tamil Medium. There was a token participatory contribution of Rs.500/- per head to partly cover the expenses. For all of them this was the first visit to Kerala and also to Chinmaya Mission ashram outside Tamil Nadu.

Swami Advayanadaji , Acharya of CIF delivered the Key Note Address during the inaugural function when ***Madhu Sri.Shanta Balakrishnan*** (Chief Sevak, Chinmaya International Foundation) inaugurated the Camp by lighting the Lamp. Br.Ramanaji took classes on Adi Sankara's 'Bhaja Govindam'. Yuva Veer Ganesan taught Surya Namaskar . Sri.P.N.Kannan took a session on 'the Chinmaya way of Life'. Yuva Veer Vijayakumar and Yuva Veer Ganesan organized interesting group activities and games. The participants on short notice put up a skit on Ramayanam. On the final day the participants were taken on a tour nearby Temples beside a Boat ride on the backwaters.

Training & Development of Youth : Chinmaya Village Knowledge Centre (CKVC)

A computer Training Centre was started in January 2006 with 5 used PCs donated by well wishers. **Sri.Krishna Kumar** a B.Tech Graduate & Software Engineer in a leading IT Company in Chennai has been conducting the weekly classes every Sunday on 'Basics of Computers'. Whenever he has to be away on assignments ,the classes are handled by our Volunteer **Sri.M.Suresh** (of Chinmaya Vel's Youth Club, Thamaraiykkam) who is a student of MCA . Another volunteer from Komakkambedu Village, **Ms.S.Revathi**, a final year student of BE (Computer Science) in Magna Engineering College in nearby Magaral Village also assists in conducting the classes.

A structured Text Book on topics covered in the classes has been provided to the Students.

With spontaneous support from different quarters and the blessing of the Lord and Pujya Gurudev, this initiative which was launched in a small scale in 2006 is now poised to take off as a full fledged **VILLAGE KNOWLEDGE CENTRE** to serve the Youth from Thamaraiykkam and surrounding Villages:

The Trustees of MCST have kindly provided us with floor space to conduct this activity.M/s. Larsen & Toubro Ltd, Chennai Area Office donated 12 used Personal Computers in good working condition for use in our Training centre. We were fortunate to get a brand new PC with UPS as donation from the members of the Masonic Lodge (Mount Lodge) Chennai .

Thanks to the efforts of **Dr.L.Vedavalli**, (Member, Executive Committee of Chinmaya Mission , Chennai) **MS Swaminathan Foundation**, Chennai have pledge support in setting up this Centre. Besides hardware, we would be provided with the Software required to access the Internet and study their School subjects. We would also provide facility to browse the Net at a nominal charge.

INITIATIVES TOWARDS PUBLIC HYGINE, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT:

TOTAL SANITATION PROGRAMME (TSC)

CORD, Thamaraiakkam is working closely with the office of BDO, Ellapuram Block in implementing the Total sanitation Scheme. We work on the project of building up Individual House-hold Toilets in Thamaraiakkam Panchayath & Kommakkambedu Panchayath Involving the members of our women's SHGs.

We have facilitated building up of **58** Household Toilets (28 in Thamaraiakkam, 13 Senbedu & 17 in Kommakkambedu Panchayaths) getting the government subsidy for the beneficiaries. Another **73** Toilets are under construction and are expected to be completed after the monsoon.

Chinmaya Vanaprastha Group of Chinmaya Mission Chennai provided us with a revolving fund of Rs.15,000/- extending refundable financial assistance to members of our SHGs to build toilets at homes. We have helped three SHG Members with advances of Rs.3000 each to enable start the construction.

DIABETIC CAMPS

In collaboration with MV Diabetics Hospital Royapuram, Diabetics Camps were conducted for detection & treatment of diabetics in Thamaraiakkam, Magaral, Pagalmedu, Arikkambedu, Keezhakondaiyur and Karalapakkam villages,

Screened at Door-step : 800 Persons

Detected (new cases) : 135 Persons

Our volunteers conduct a weekly review of these 135 Diabetic patients and give them the tablets prescribed and provided by MV Hospital for diabetics.

Survey of Diabetic Foot in Villages:

Screened : 73 Cases

Free Foot-wear issued : 65 Cases

Diabetic care campaign is going on in the above villages on a continuous basis with support from MV Diabetic Hospital.

VISION CARE CAMP:

In response to requests from the people of Kommakkambedu Village, a Vision Care Camp was organised in the Village Panchayat School there on 27th October 2007. An ophthalmic surgeon, optician and two assistants equipped with equipments from **UMA EYE CLINIC, ANNANAGAR ,CHENNAI** conducted the camp. Our volunteers took care of all arrangements for orderly conduct of the Camp which had overwhelming response from the Villagers.

Though over 200 persons turned up for the Camp , due to paucity of time only 163 patients could be screened by the Team. For those needed Vision Glasses the same were provided Free of Cost by the Clinic. The details are given below:

- 1.No of Patients examined:**163**
- 2.No of Patients for whom Free Spectacles given :**80**
- 3.No of Patients advised to come for Cataract Operation:**40**
- 4.No of Patients who underwent free Cataract Operation :**10**

UMA EYE CLINIC provided free Transport and accommodation for the night to the Patients who reported for Cataract Operation.

SUPPORT TO HIV+ CHILD

It was really painful when we came to know that a 13 year old girl in our Balvihar is tested Positive for HIV. This bright child had lost her parents and an elder brother in quick succession in a span of three years. The initial reaction was to locate a reliable 'home' and admit her there. On second thought after a long search for 'homes',we decided to support her while she lives in her village home where she lives with her elder brother and family

Thanks to the sponsorship from Sri.M.K.Unnithan, one of the Patrons of Chinmaya Mission ,Chennai we are able to extend care and support to her.a 13 girl tested HIV positive.

We extend support for her personal hygiene, nutritive diet and counselingWe ensure that the child consumes daily the Supplementary Nutritive Diet, Vitamins & Mineral tablets. We take her to the Integrated Testing and Counseling Centre (ICTC) at Kilpauk Medical College for the monthly check up and counseling.

It is heartening to note that her health has improved after we took up her care and she continues to be cheerful and happy in her habitat.

INITIATIVE FOR ENHANCING THE GREEN COVER: 'CHINMYA VANOTSAV'

To enhance the Green cover ,CORD has launched 'CHINMAYA VANOTSAV' on Chinmaya Jayanthi day 8th May 2007.

The initial drive was to plant 1000 saplings of fruit bearing trees in rural domestic homesteads. A survey of families in all the 4 wards in Thamaraiykkam Panchayath carried out by our Volunteers to locate families who would accept and nurture Fruit bearing tree saplings. 700 families have joined hands with us in Thamaraiykkam.

On Sunday the 5th August 2007,an awareness rally with placards was taken out in Thamaraiykkam to give publicity on the benefits of growing trees . In the rally led by Br.Ramana Chaitanya besides our CORD Volunteers a number of Balvihar Aevaks/Sevikas from Chennai and Balvihar Children of Chennai & Thamaraiykkam took part.

So far we have planted 20 saplings inside our Ashram complex and 900 saplings in Thamaraiykkam Village.

This has come to stay as an ongoing project for us with not only planting Saplings but also follow up with the families to ensure that the saplings are really nurtured.

VISIT OF OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Our National Director **Padma Sri. Dr.KSHAMA METRE** paid a visit to Thamaraiykkam for review and guidance in our work.She was with us from 11th to 14th March 2008.The CORD Team at Thamaraiykkam had very fruitful meetings with her . She participated in our celebrations of International Women's Day on 12th March 2007.

During the visit ,Kshamaji explained to CORD Team about the contents of the recently released book 'GRACE @ WORK' on CORD's Vission & Mission. She also explained on CORD's new initiative Alcohol Deaddiction using the tablet 'NALTREXONE' and guided us as to how to organise administration of the Tablet.

Since it was her first visit to Chennai after getting the award of Padma Sri , we organised a felicitation function jointly with chinmaya Mission Chennai at Chinmaya Heritage Centre at 7 PM on 14th March 2008.She had a meeting with Sri.SS Rajsekar, Managing Trustee of National Agro Foundation at Chennai in the forenoon on 13th March 2008.

Chinmaya Jayanthi Celebrations 2007

In grateful offering to our Pujya Gurudev ,CORD Thamaraiykkam organized various events on 8th May 2007. The day started with **Paduka Pooja** offered most reverentially by about 100 Balvihar Children from Thamaraiykkam and neighboring Villages.

This was followed by a **Blood Donation Camp** organized by CORD and Chinmaya Vel's Yuva Club, Thamaraiykkam. In the Camp held at Radha Ravi Kalyana Mandapam under the guidance of Lions Club Blood Bank Chennai, 40 village youngsters donated blood. Many were first time donors.

In the evening **Chinmaya Vanotsav** was launched with planting five Sapplings of fruit bearing trees These were offered and planted by our wellwisher Er,Natesan (of Vijaya Farms Ksaranodai) who is also the Hony. Advisor of Chinmaya Farmers' Club being organized by CORD. Five Vilwa Sapplings provided by him were also recently planted as part of Chinmaya Vanotsav 2007.

Around 6 PM, Pujya Gurudev's Portrait was carried from Sarvesawara Dhyana Nilayam in a rally by Balvihar Children to Perumal Koil in Thamaraiykkam Tamil Colony. From 7 PM to 9 PM a local Bhajan Party rendered, in front of the Koil, Tamil and Telugu **Bhajans** in the traditional '**Namasankeertan Sampradhaya**' with great devotional fervor. All arrangements were carried out with the support of members of CORD's women SHGs in the area and the youth Annadhanam was organized on conclusion of the Bhajans.

PUJYA GURUJI'S GYAN YAGNA @ CHENNAI

Our Volunteers and staff along with some of the SHG's Members attended the Geeta Gyana yagna by Pujya Guruji at Chennai from 15th to 21st February 2008. Besides getting the spiritual benefit out of listening to the Talks on 'Meditation Made Easy', we were also able to project to the public the work being done by CORD at Thamaraiykkam. The SHG members took turns in visiting the Yagna Sala and sold the their Groups' products like Jute Bags, Artifices, Agarbathies , Short Eats and also Vegetables, Herbs grown by them.

The CORD team joined the Bhiksha Vandanam to Pujya Guruji in the morning of 21st February 2008 and took his blessings.

Earlier on 17th October 2007, our Staff along with Sri PN Kannan, Director visited Coimbatore to attend the 'Grama Balamahotsavam' organised by CORD, Siruvani And had the blessing of Satsang with Pujya Guruji for some time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Our Grateful Salutations at the Holy feet of Puja Gurudev whose benign hand was guiding us all along. Without His Blessings we could not have completed four years of work despite all odds and obstacles.

We sincerely thank Puja Guruji for giving us this opportunity to serve the Lord through service to the people around us.

Our offer our reverential gratitude to Swami Mitranandaji Acharya of Chinmaya Mission, Chennai for his constant support in all our endeavours.

We sincerely thank all the Trustees of CORD for the confidence reposed on and for the constant guidance and support all these four years.

Our heartfelt THANKS to our National Director & Mentor Padmasri Dr.Kshama Didiji for her continuous directions and guidance in our work

We thank Ms.Monaji of CORD Head Office for her valuable inputs from time to time and the pains taken by her in helping us.

We thank Madhusri,Leela Amma and the Trustees and Members of MCST in particular the Chief Sevak Sri.O.V.Nambiar for their support enabling smooth functioning of our project.

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We salute the numerous devotees of Chinmaya Mission and other well wishers for their support and help in all our projects.

The Staff and Volunteers of CORD & Sarveswara Dhyana Nilayam deserve all appreciation for their dedicated hard work in whatever responsibility assigned .

HARI OM! Salutations!

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