



## **CORD (CHINMAYA ORGANISATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT)**

**THAMARAIPAKKAM, (Thiruvallur District).Tamil Nadu.**

### **Narrative Report for the Half-Year ended September 2010**

#### **CHINMAYA SAMAJ SEVAK COURSE (IN TAMIL)**

The Chinmaya Samaj Sevak Course (in Tamil) inaugurated by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji at Thanaraipakkam on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010 came to a successful completion on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The last leg of training took place at the Lead Training Centre of CORD at Sidhbari from 28<sup>th</sup> August 2010 to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Dr.Kshama Metre, Sri.Narender,Sri Onkar Saini, Smt. Seema Thakur and Sri.Vijay Singh conducted the evaluation of the learning of the CSSC Students (3 girls & 6 boys) at Tamaraiipakkan.. Three Volunteers (two ladies and one boy) from ‘;CORD- Sri Lanka’ also attended the last three weeks of training at Thamaraiipakkam.

On 26<sup>th</sup> August 2010 all the nine CSSC Students and the three Volunteers from Sri Lanka traveled along with myself to Sidhbari and on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Powai, Mumbai where Pujya Guruji blessed the Students and issued the Course Completion Certificates to the nine students.



*Pujya Swamiji blesses CSSC Students*

A. CSSC student Sri.C.Chelladurai, DME, was posted as Community Development Officer (CDO) at Thamaraiipakkam. Two male students and one lady student were posted as Community Development Workers (CDW) Thamaraiipakkam and one lady student and one male student were posted as CDW at CORD,Siruvani. Two male students were posted at Thamaraiipakkam as part-time workers. All the students who were posted to CORD would start working on 1.10.2010



at

*CSSC Students at Primary School Explaining Personal Hygiene*

## CHINMAYA SAMAJ SEVAK COURSE (IN TAMIL) ..... Contd.

Besides lecture sessions on development related subjects, by the experts led Dr.Kshama Metre ,Sri.Narender, Sri Onkar Saini and Smt. Seema Thakur, the students also had practical training on the field on formation of community based organisations (CBOs) like women's Self Help Groups, Mahila Mandals, Yuva/Yuvathi Groups, Farmers Clubs and Balvihar. Projects like preparation of Vermi Compost preparation, Leach Pits & Soak Pits. Awareness sessions on public &



personal hygiene were conducted by Dr.Meers Krishna of CORD Siruvani. Field visits to observe organic farming, waste management, Vermi compost & Biogas production were also arranged. Spiritual Texts were taken up for study under Br.Sadhasiva Chaitanya. Experts from Chennai presented sessions on RTI Act, Leadership & Public Speaking, Sanitation, Panchayathiraj and Coimunity Based Rehabilitation

*Exposure Visit to the residence of  
MrIndra kumar, a Waste less House !*

## ENVIRONMENT

The texture of the Social fabric in Thamaraiakkam and surrounding Panchayaths is changing very fast with progressive urbanization and industrialization. A large percentage of agricultural lands are being converted into Housing plots, Warehouses and Industrial units. A large manufacturing unit of 'WinWind Ltd' making wind mill spares has been opened in Vengal Village about 7 KM from Thamaraiakkam offering employment opportunities for the youth from Thamaraiakkam and neighboring villages.

## COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS

### WOMEN's SELF HELP GROUPS

As reported in last quarterly report our work on the area of women's empowerment is facing severe impediment from TN Govt's Scheme "VAZHNTU KATTUVOM PROJECT" (VKP) operational in our area ELLAPURAM Block where they enjoy monopoly of working with Govt's support with no room for other NGOs. Bering a Scheme funded by the World Bank for Poverty elimination, VKP is flush with funds. Lured by the offering of loans and other benefits by VKP, it has earned higher following among the village women and gained popularity with them. Consequently our out reach among women in our target area is under pressure. We are working with higher authorities of VKP to tide over the impediments to improve our out reach in our focus area.

## LIVELIHOOD TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

### Tailoring & Dress Making Classes:

Now we have 3 Tailoring training units one each in Thamaraiakkam, Pandeswaram & Pakkam Villages. 93 girl students and women underwent training during this half year.

#### Thamaraiakkam:

Since inception in 2006, 124 students have completed the six months' Training Course from the Thamaraiakkam Centre. A minimum of 40 Women out of our old students are making an earning of about Rs.2000/-pm thanks to the skill acquired. In the Current batch, there are 19 ladies undergoing training.

In September 2010, M/s.Ambattur Clothing Ltd of Sri,Vijay Mehtani donated three Power Driven heavy duty Tailoring Machines to us. They are in good working condition and these can be used for making Jute Fancy items & Bags.



*Power driven Tailoring Machines*



*A view of Tailoring Training Centre at Thamaraisakkam*

### **Pandeswaram Village:**

A Tailoring & Dress Making Centre was started January 2009 at Pandeswaram Village (with 4 Machines) at the initiative of SHG Members from the village. The first batch of twenty women completed the course by end July 2009. In the Second batch with fifteen women completed the Course and the third batch with



*Students in Pandeswaram Training Centre*



*Inauguration of Pandeswaram Training Centre*

### **Pakkam Village:**

A Tailoring & Dress making Center was started on March 2010 at Pakkam Panchayath (with 4 Machines). Out of the first batch of twelve women, eight completed the six months training and were awarded Certificates. The second batch of training would start in November 2010.

### **Embroidery Training**

A course on Embroidery Training was started on 26-4-2010 at CORD Thamaraiakkam Center (with 1 Embroidery Bed). We located a teacher from a village near Thamaraiakkam. This activity is being run in collaboration with **Sri Ram Community Polytechnic College, Perumalpattu** who sponsored the Embroidery Bed and honorarium for the Instructor. Due to poor response to this course at Thamaraiakkam, this activity is being shifted to nearby Sembedu Village.



## **TRAINING ON HOME MADE 'Sanitary Napkins'**



As part of our efforts on skill development of women, our staff Ms.N.Lalitha & CSSC Student (now CDW (J)) Ms.V.Gayathri were deputed for a training Programme on making of cost effective Sanitary Napkins on home based basis. They would train the rural women on this skill besides propagating the use of Sanitary Napkins. Our collaborators Sri Ram Community Polytechnic College, Perumalpattu is supporting this activity by bearing the cost of one trainee besides promoting this product through vending machines which are going to be installed in the Ladies' Hostels of their Group institutions.

Training to a group of SHG Members in Kavarapettai Village was imparted by our Smt.N.Lalitha at the invitation of Hi-tech Carbons Ltd as part of their CSR Activity.

### **Paper Carry Bags Making:**

'Chinmaya Thazhampoo SHG' at Sivanvoyal has matured into a self supporting group on this activity. As reported earlier the Micro Finance of Rs.12, 000 was arranged by us for this SHG from the Rotary Club of Madras-Mid Town Chennai. This Group also makes hand rolled Agarbathies which have become popular. This group is working on acquiring semi automatic paper folding machinery to improve the quality of the product.

### **Temple Jewelry Making:**

The Group of Women SHG members from Pandeswaram Village who were Trained in this trade is continuing this activity.

### **Computer Based Adult Literacy Program (CoBAL):**

After successful completion of the CoBAL Programme in Magaral Mettu Colony (December 2008 -March 2009) where about 50 Adult women learnt Tamil alphabets using a software (for computer based learning) compiled by TCS Ltd we started this Programme subsequently in two other hamlets in Thamarapakkam Panchayath benefiting 40 more adults. However due to poor response for this Programme, our volunteers are working on creating awareness on importance of Adult literacy in one hamlet with street plays etc before launching this Programme. It is targeted to start the classes in January 2011 with support from SSA.

### **Rotary/CORD Gomatha Project:**

The Scheme started in February 2009 is being continued with periodical visits of our Sevak and Veterinary Surgeon visiting the beneficiaries. Two cows and a calf died of an epidemic. The other animals are healthy and yielding Milk. Three Cows of the beneficiaries have given birth to Calves (Two Females & one Male). We are guiding the beneficiaries to grow Co3 Grass for the Cows. Plans for marketing the Milk at an economic rate is also being worked out.

### Vocational Training On Computers for Youth:

On May 15th, 2010, we launched a six months computer training programme in collaboration with **Sri Ram Community Polytechnic College, Perumalpattu**. The aim is to train youth who have studied at least up to class X in basic computer applications, MS Office besides Tally or DTP.. Fifteen students from the villages around Thamaraiykkam have joined the Course Twelve students passed the test and found eligible for issue of certificate. The second batch of fifteen students (seven boys and eight girls) is being trained.



### 'DIGITAL LITERACY' Programme in Tamil

Rotary Club of Madras – Midtown have affiliated our Computer Centre into their 'Digital Literacy' Programme. The Self Learning Programme designed and developed by Rotarian Sri KB Sridhar of this Club has been installed at our Centre. This Programme enables people with a basic knowledge of Tamil to learn use of Computer and MS Office applications. All the commands appear in Tamil on screen. There is also an 'on line' help in Tamil. One can learn at one's own pace and just 16 Hours of training would equip them with ability of use Ms Office. So far sixty students including housewives and members of our SHGs and Adolescent girls groups have completed the Course.

Thanks to the efforts of Rotary Club of Madras Midtown with whom we have been working for Digital Literacy, we received a donation of ten desk top computers in September 2010 from FORD Foundation of India. These Computers have been installed in our Computer Centre in Thamaraiykkam.

Three of the toppers of our Centre who underwent this course , were selected for being honored at a function organized by the Rotary Club on 11 June 2010 at Hotel Connemara, Chennai



*Inauguration of Digital Literacy Program by RTN.K.B.Sridhar at Chinmaya Arangam Thamaraiykkam.*



*MD of FORD INDIA Handing over Donation document For ten computers to CORD computer Center. TN IT Minister Smt. Aladi Aruma looks on.*

## Training on Cell Phone Repairing:

To equip members of Chinmaya Youth Clubs and the CSSC Students with skills in Cell Phone repairing a one week training Programme was conducted in the last week of June 2010. Besides the training the participants were also provided with the basic Repairing Kit.

The trainer who was a NOKIA Certified trainer and he made course very practical oriented and all the trainees found it very useful.



## CHINMAYA YOUTH CLUBS

Three youth groups in (one Thamaraiakkam & two in Magral Village.) have been registered with Nehru Yuva Kendra.. 38 members of Youth Clubs were guided to get Four/Two Wheeler Driving Licenses under the TN Govt. Subsidy Scheme.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2010, Swami Mitrananda addressed the Yuva Club Members at our Centre and motivated them to take up a time bound project 'One Household – One Toilet by 2011'.



## 'VALARMATHI' – THE ADOLESCENT GIRLS GROUPS



*Dr Meera of CORD Siruvani interacts with the Valarmathi girls*



*A 'Valarmathi' adolescent girls group.*

The adolescent girls groups were started in May 2009. As on end September 2010 there are four groups are there: one each at Perumal Kovil Street, Nadu Kandigai, in Thamaraiakkam Panchayath. They meet once every month and discuss the relevant issues like Health and hygiene.

Our staff Mrs.N.Lalitha (CDW(j) is coordinating this activity and guiding the groups.

## CHINMAYA TUTION CENTERS:

With the reopening of schools, the Chinmaya Tution Centers – (*The Mother of our activities in Thamaraiakkam*) became active again in June 2010. New Centers were started in three hamlets: Telugu Colony (25 students) Nadu Kandigai (50 Students) both in Thamaraiakkam Panchayath and Vettaikaran Colony (35 Students) Magaral Panchayath.

Totally there are about 750 students in all the 10 Centres put together. Predominantly the students are from BPL Families with the parents' education level being very poor. Our aim is to prevent incidence of drop outs from Schools



*A Tuition center in sivanvoyal village*

There are 16 Volunteers who serve as teachers in these Centers. We pay monthly honorarium of Rs.500 to 4 Senior Teachers & Rs.400 each to the rest. Most of the students offer a Voluntary Participatory Contribution of Rs.10/-per month.

In Edamettupalayam we started a new tuition center under the initiative of one CSSC Student joining hands with the youth club there.

## **KODAYIL VASANTHAM: A COOL CAMP FOR CHILDREN**

For the fifth year in succession, 'Kodayil Vasantham' (spring in summer) -the Cool camp in Tamil was organized by us at Thamaraiykkam from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8th May 2010.

The Camp held between 10 Am to 6 PM was attended by 320 students (IV Std. to IX Std.) from under-privileged families of eight hamlets around Thamaraiykkam. The majority of them were students of CORD's Tuition Centres. Br.Sadasiva Chaitanya, Acharya of Sarveswara Dhyana Nilayam, Thamaraiykkam inaugurated the Camp.

The highlights of this year's Camp were:

This year 'Hanumanji' was the hero of the Camp and the theme was "**Vazhvil Veeram (Courage) Vegam (Speed) , Vivekam (Sharp Intellect) -Hanuman kattiya vazhiyil (As shown by Hanuman) "**".

The campers were divided into five groups for attending the classes /activities. the groups were named after the qualities of Hanumanji: Anima, Mahima, Gareema Lagima, Prapthi Prakamya, Ishithvam & Vasishthvam. Chinmaya Mission's Yuva Veers Sarva Sri P.G.Ganesan, B.Santosh Kumar, S.Vijaya Kumar, S.Mohanraj, G.Prabhakaran and G.Vijaya Kumar and Sri.L.Loganathan and Smt.N.Lalitha of CORD besides the 9 Chinmaya Samaj Sevak Course served as resource persons for the sessions besides organizational work .CORD Team and about fifty boys and girls of CHYKS-Sarveswara from Thamaraiykkam and near by villages worked dedicatedly for the success of the Camp.



*A class room Session in progress*



*A view of Kids in the Camp*

## COMPUTER /BALVIHAR CLASS FOR KIDS ON SUNDAY FORENOONS:

The Computer Classes in Thamaraiakkam Centre were reopened in June 2010 after the summer break. Kumari S. Revathi a young IT Engineer & CORD's Volunteer from Kommakkambedu Village works dedicatedly in organizing the Classes and co-ordinates with Bhumi a Group of young executives ([www.bhumichennai.org](http://www.bhumichennai.org)) who support this activity. Volunteers from 'BHUMI' Sri.Arun and Sri. Balaji from Thiruvallur and Sri. Manikandan (a B.E. Student) serve as instructors. These classes are attended by about 90 kids. Along with the Computer Classes, Bal Vihar Classes & Communication/Personality Development Classes are also being conducted on Sundays.



*Prizes to Kids on Chinmaya Jayanthi Competitions*

## BOOKS ON ENGLISH & NUMBERS FOR RURAL KIDS IN KG CLASS:

Thanks to the initiative of Ms.Mona Malkani of CORD Head Office, we received a set of beautifully illustrated user friendly books to learn English Alphabets & words and also Numbers by kids who are starters in learning. There were also books for learning Hindi. These books which a child from the under-privileged sections of rural society can not afford, were made available through the kind donation of a devotee, Mrs.Sharda Chawlaji.

These Books were distributed in our Chinmaya Tuition Centers (Evening Classes) run at 10 different locations. The books were also given to UKG kids of HARI HARA Vidyalaya started in July 2010 in a new building within our ashram premises. The kids studying in the Free Govt. Primary Schools (following the pattern of Activity Based Learning - ABL) in Thamaraiakkam and other near by villages were also given the books. All the beneficiary Children are from families who would not have cared to buy such books.

The Books by "MADHUBUN" are very beautiful and the kids enjoy studying them.



## GREEN THAMARAIPAKKAM PROJECT

In October 2008, we launched the Project Green Thamaraiakkam, a community plantation scheme, to give saplings of fruits bearing trees to each of the 700 & odd families in the 17 Hamlets in Thamaraiakkam Panchayath.

For this three years Project, it is targeted to plant 2000 saplings with participation of families.

Till June 2010, 1290 Saplings were planted by 525 families in Thamaraiakkam: Mango 300, Guava 250, Gooseberry 265, Lime 250, Jamun 225 Total **1250**

From July 2010, planting of saplings of shade giving trees in public places was taken up. 'Tree Bank' an NGO in Chennai joined hands with us and donated the saplings for shade trees.

Till September 2010, 200 saplings were planted in Thiruvallur Highway, Markets, Govt.Schools in Thamaraiakkam, Police Station in Vengal, BDO's Office in Periyapalyanm, Schools in Velliyur, Magaral and Konnakkanbedu Villages and Sevalaya Orphanage in Kasuva Village. NSS Students of Hindu College in Pattabharam and Chinmaya Youth Club in Perumal Koil Street Thamaraiakkam supported our efforts. CSSC Students were also involved,

To generate awareness about the benefits of the Scheme, Street Plays by our Volunteers under the banner of 'Chinmaya Folk Arts Group' were held in six Hamlets. Sri.M.Sundar of National Folk Arts Group (NSFG) Chennai trained our Volunteers for this activity. Street plays were also held in six villages around Thamaraiakkam to propagate the importance of greenery and awareness on Global Warming by CORD's Staff ,CSSC Students & Volunteers.



*Our Volunteer Coordinator Sri.A.Prabu handling  
A sapling for planting at Police station in Vengal near Thamaraiakkam.*



*Planting a Sapling at Govt School Velliyur*



*Planting a sapling at School in Vilapakkam*



*Sapling Planting at Kommakkambedu School*

## TOTAL SANITATION PROJECT (TSC)

The work on promoting building of Domestic Toilets is continuing with our Ms.N.Lalitha(CDW(J) working dedicatedly and spearheading the Project. .

During April to September 2010, 60 Families of Thamaraiykkam were motivated to build toilets and the subsidy from the Government was obtained for 30 Toilets. In Semmbedu Village 16 families built toilets and government subsidy awaited. In Kommakkambedu village three families built toilets and government subsidy was obtained. In Magaral Village forty five families built toilets and government subsidy was received.



**A beneficiary & the Toilet**

## FARMERS' CLUB (CHINMAYA UZHAVAR MANDRAMS)

Now there are 4 Chinmaya Farmers' Clubs in Thamaraiykkam: Perumal Koil Street, Poosali Medu, Magaral Village and an 'All Women Farmers' Club (Chinmaya Shakthi Farmers' Club') at Edamettupalayam Village. The process of registration with NABARD in respect of Farmers' Clubs in Poosalimedu and Perumal Koil Street are complete and the Poosalimedu Club received the subsidy for inaugural expenses and the activity of 'Meeting the Experts.'

The Flag-ship event of the year was a Lecture Demonstration by the renowned Dr.K.Nammalvaar , a saint-like missionary for Organic farming, held at Chinmaya Arangam on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Being a much sought after expert on farming over seventy farmers from villages around Thamaraiykkam thronged the venue. Dr.Nammalvaar also demonstrated making of various organic inputs like 'Panchakavya' 'Amruthakarasal' etc. He also answered various questions raised by the farmers

The event was CORD's contribution to the Society as farmers beyond Chinmaya Farmers Clubs were also greatly benefited .



**CSSC Students, Trainers from Sidhbari & CORD Team in discussion with Dr.Nammaalvar**

**Dr.Nammalvar Addressing our Chinmaya Farmers Clubs**



**A View of gathering of Farmers listening to Dr.Nammalvar**



## STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Sri.L.Loganathan (CDW-S) attended a four hour work shop on 'ALL ABOUT MOTIVATION' by Sri.M.B.Nirmal, President ,Exnora International at Chennai on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

## NET WORKING

We work in collaboration with the following Organisations:

- ❖ BHUMI .Chennai , an association of young Professionals of Chennai on Programmes for Development and Training of Children.
- ❖ MV HOSPITAL FOR DIABETES: For Awareness generation on Diabetics & related problems.
- ❖ ROTARY CLUB of MADRAS MIDTOWN: On Different Development Projects.
- ❖ SRI RAM COMMUNITY POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE :

On projects of skill development for Women & Youth

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

But for the Grace of the Lord, Blessings of Pujya Gurudev Chinmayanandaji and Pujya Guruji H.H. Swami Tejomayandaji, we would not continued our work in the difficult field with so many impediments. We thank our National Director Dr.Kshama Metre and her team for their periodic evaluations and advice. We are grateful to Swami Mitranandaji, Acharya of Chinmaya Mission, Chennai who continuously encouraged us and supported our work.

We thank the Trustees of CORD and Ms.Mona Malkani of Head Office patiently guided us in our work and helped us in improving our standards.

Our Thanks all to the well wishers who supported our work in various ways.

For CORD Thamaripakkam,

P.N.Kannan,

Project Director.