



MANVASANAI

Children Led Ecological Learning Project



"Climate change is one of the, greatest threat for human security, especially safe future for children and it is the greatest challenge facing humanity at the start of the 21st Century. Any failure to meet the challenge raises the spectrum of unprecedented reversals in Food security and basic human development."

(HDR 2007/2008)

Food security is an explicit concern under climate change, hence children who are almost two third of the global population need to learn key drivers of food security including appropriate adaptation and mitigation processes. Children Movement for Climate justice - CMCJ within its overall goal endorses that revival of traditional knowledge on agriculture sector and environment protection is key to food sovereignty and security of the marginalized.

The vulnerability and experience of children, who are members of CMCJ across the southern States of India, comprise a crucial and relevant component of the overall profile of child rights. Marginalised poor families and communities are deprived of sufficient opportunity to produce food which results in whole family, especially children suffering with food insecurity, lack of clean drinking water and are vulnerable to various new forms of disease due to inorganic matter in the day to day food stuff and unsafe water and environment. Food insecurity is determined by exposure to the risk factors and their family's ability to cope with or withstand stressful situations due to various factors including climate and policy that deny food sovereignty.



WHAT DO WE COMMIT OURSELVES

As members of Children Movement for Climate Justice, our families and communities, we all commit ourselves to reduce the risk and vulnerability as rigorous as possible by learning the less carbon path to food production. The Children led ecological learning project—**MANVASANAI** is an open hands on experience opportunity for any one who share our commitment.

There is a great urgency, beyond the craze for economic growth, urbanization, science and technology, for our generation get exposure and better understand from where do we get our food and how do we preserve the production rights accessible to the least ones.

We strongly believe undermining sovereignty based food security is digging ones own grave. Thus we further commit ourselves and our movement to educate and empower each one of us as well our immediate families and communities to adapt to traditional knowledge based science advancement to ensure food security and to mitigate the changing climate.

FACILITATING FOOD SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY

WHAT DO WE DO

MANVASANAI project is initiated by active members of Children Movement for Climate Justice—CMCJ to reduce the risk and vulnerability, apart from demanding our basic rights from the State/National and International leaders, decided to take action by opening up new avenue for self learning of our generation in partnership with SPEECH. We are preparing ourselves to face the challenges by committing ourselves to change our lifestyle by placing "common good" of everyone above individual greed which is the basic seed for over exploitation of natural resources.

We started small 200 members from Tiruchuli based NGO facilitation but gradually grew up to 7000 plus members in the Movement.

This concern was operationalised through series of debates, discussions among our peers at the community level, school centers, child clubs and Palar panchayats (children parliament) and evolved as structured association called "Children movement for Climate Justice" during one of the convention held at Tiruchuli during 2008. We also initiated possible link with children ecological groups in different parts of the globe.

Since then we gradually evolved various strategies to address the issue of climate justice by bring out simple child friendly write ups, lobby, advocacy, direct interventions, children actions, direct eco friendly learning experiments and strengthening the membership base by new awareness and enrolment camps.

Here we learn and provide opportunity for children like us on basic soil and water conservation, integrated food production, organic farming methods including pesticides and bio stimulants, use of non conventional energy forms, cultivation of traditional millets, pulses and cereals and herbal plants with their values.

We believe that this trial or opportunity is life line for every child like us and this will no way hinder ours as well our parents aspirations on us to become an engineer o medical doctor or anything else. This learning venture is a life skill and basic for our living and protection of our only mother earth with dignity and sovereignty.





GOAL

By 2015 Children from vulnerable families are able to manage to influence their own families, community and society at large to ensure sovereignty based food security with adequate knowledge base.

To establish a workable model led by children to ensure food security and make the earth livable through formation of Palar Panchayat and scaling up the effort of Children movement for Climate Justice for children from other states to follow.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

To ensure, food security concerns are mainstreamed in children agenda and opportunities are made for children from all sectors to learn Traditional, Organic –Eco friendly food production practices as part of their life systems.

Living opportunity for children from dry land farming communities to have hands on practical experience alongside their academic education, while increasing their awareness on food sovereignty.

Intend to mobilize peer pressure among children from Rights Perspective through advocacy and lobby to lead policy makers to explore the opportunities and make informed decisions by taking sovereignty based food security in the broader context of rural and agriculture development.

“We want our experience of learning to use organic manure and preparation of “round bed” which will give three time the yield as against the normal type of planting of vegetable as well will meet the family fresh vegetable need for almost six month with minimum water resource and external inputs.

This learning not only give the best to our family but also help us to strengthen our social networks by sharing the yield with our neighbors. This is only the beginning, we have a long way to go but are confident that soon we will transfer the confidence we gained through this learning process to many more of our peers as well our adults.. Soon we will rule out food need and live in harmony with nature.”.

Karthigai Lakshmi,
President
Vidathakulam Palar panchayat (Elected)



Karthigai Lakshmi with her peers from CMCJ at the learning centre

RESULTS

Children's are able to give appropriate importance to food sovereignty and work towards food security

Ecological balance and climate change mitigation efforts are taken by children using traditional knowledge base there by rights of children protected.

Children apply peer pressure within democratic norms to ensure policy decisions are in favour of food sovereignty thereby vulnerable and socially marginalised children are given priority with appropriate budget provisions.

Child rights violations including ecological degradation at the State level identified on a regular basis and successfully addressed through respective committees on Climate Justice.

Increasing Peer Pressure from grassroots and from children's camp on stakeholder concerned for effective addressing of child rights sensitive policy formulation through wider debate.

Children relate beyond National boundaries, strengthening their networks for appropriate learning, wider debate, lobby and advocacy.

