

Annual Report

[MARUMALARCHI - 21683]

RCPDS

2016-2017



*MARUMALARCHI is a Child Focused
Community Development project partnered by
KNH Germany jointly with local communities,
implemented by RCPDS to ensure child Friendly
environment for the most vulnerable children in
Narikudi, Tiruchuli and Kariapatti Blocks of
Virudunagar District, TN, India*

ANNUAL REPORT APRIL2016- MARCH 2017

MARUMALARCHI-21683

Name of partner organization: Resource Centre for Participatory Development Studies (RCPDS)
Title of the project: Mainstreaming Social Inclusion Through Retrieving Rights of Dalit Children And Community Mobilisation (MARUMALARCHI)
Project number: 21683
Reporting period: April 2016 to March 2017
Project duration: 2014-2019
Name and position of person responsible for the project: Mr. Nirmal Raja, Project Officer
Author/s of this report: Dr. John Devavaram, Project Director, Field and Finance team
Date of submission: 26.4.2017

1. Developments in environment and external conditions with implications on the project (max. 0,5 pages)

The general environment for ensuring child rights as envisaged in the long-term objectives have been, compared against the previous year, is very positive. The trend for children accessing educational rights have been changed positively since the District administration had a targeted drive as per the instruction from the State which worked closely with the project field team in the area and ensured 100% enrollment. With this support the project managed to tap resources from Central supported scheme of SSA through which two toilets and compound wall as protection measure was constructed during the year for the middle schools in our area.

The general drought scenario and failure of agriculture posed a great threat to scarce of drinking water and occurrence of many water borne diseases. The cluster level association and CMCJ children jointly with the Government health department initiated chlorination measure, campaign against Dengu fever, and immunization and rain water initiatives in the area. This had two fold positive impacts on the community – apart from disease reduction, access to water our localized CBOs built close working relationship with mainstream departments which provide base to sustainability.

The project as part of its future direction will concentrate more on the new alliances established with education and health sectors addressing the other key issues of stabilizing teacher – student ratio,

inclusion of dalit children in mainstream system, local SHGs sub contracting the anganwadi centers part activities such as provision of nutrition supplement, growth monitoring, immunization monitoring and inclusion in parent teacher association. Support to small and marginal farmers, especially, to those who are vulnerable to migration trend due to increasing drought conditions strategies are framed with SHGs, local banking institutions, agriculture engineering department for crop investment, appropriate equipment support and local SC/BC hostels for placement of children if situation go beyond due to unforeseen natural calamities.

2. Project Outreach (max. 1/4 page)

During the reporting year the project reached targeted children and their families in particular to the age band – 3 -5 plus; 6 to 13 plus; 14 to 18 and their families. In terms of families key focus is laid on women headed households, dalit families who suffer serious discrimination; and families with differently abled children. Since the project has already reached year three of its life span during the year the outreach focused more on preparing the new community based institutions formed by the project – SHGs; CMCJ, CRPC and others to gain skills in participatory approaches and review their own progress made jointly with RCPDS and take stock of the gap areas in the light of child friendly right based concepts to make necessary revisions to the following years in the project period. Efforts were also made to formalize linkages with the already existing federation as an offshoot of “Balasakthi” CFCD so that in the coming years the presently evolved CLAs will get attached to the federation and emerge as one large peoples movement.

In contrast to local community expectation for dole out and free program with many projects, our target communities have enthusiastically contributed agreed proportion as local contribution which is a good indicator of beneficiary community viewing the project very relevant and meaningful. The multi-stake holder’s consultation gave a valuable foundation in the initial part to have linkages with the Government departments and to use the available measures in order to improve the environmental sanitation and personal hygiene. Through these linkages and the involvement of government activities the self-sustainable effort for the required beneficiaries works in an effective manner.

Were there any deviations from what you had planned with the project proposal?

There is no major deviation in the proposed activities or budget lines during the reporting period except for

Budget alteration for 21683 vide communication dated 19th September 2016 from RCPDS and approval from KNH dated 22nd September 2016 for budget alteration from WASA03 “Deepening of water bodies” to ECD 01 “Provision of play materials and class room equipments”.

3. Progress of the intervention in the reporting period: from activities to objectives (max. 6 pages)

3.1 Description of progress on each Sub-Objective¹

Obj/Result 1: 450 children between the age of 3 - 5 years who do not have access to “Anganwadi” including those who attend Anganwadis run by ICDS, enjoy basic ECD provisions from Rights perspective, duly supported and gap filled in systems (ICDS Anganwadi centres) on a sustainable basis.

During this year, 280 anganwadi children are benefitted through this project. Based on the action plan and meeting with local community, wall paintings completed in two anganwadi centre and one resource centre for the purpose of enhancing visual learning of children. As a result of this activity, children are coming to Anganwadi centre regularly and their physical & motor skills have been improved when they learn using play way method. 40 Bio-intensive gardening (BIG) established in Anganwadi Centres and families of SHG members for ensuring availability of fresh vegetables for anganwadi centre and family. Nutritional Supplement powder was supplied to 225 children who are undernourished with the close monitoring of CRPC and SHG in the concerned village. It helps in improving the health condition of children.

Project jointly with the local Gram Panchayat have organised campaign on environmental sanitation and personal hygiene which covers three schools with 325 children. During the campaign IEC materials were distributed.

About 40 Anganwadi workers from the administrative blocks were trained in the concept of child rights and its perspective and Early Child Development concepts jointly organised with ICDS in Narikudi block of Virudhunagar District. Knowledge transfer helps Anganwadi workers to improve their skills and handling children with Child Rights perspective. Local communities, SHG and CRPC involved in monitoring the learning capacity of children in Anganwadi centre.

As result of this activity, anganwadi going children number is increased this year when compared to previous year. This is because of the infrastructure, play material and additional focus on children leads to increasing the number of children in schools.

Obj/Result 2: 500 children between the age of 5 plus to 13 are able to develop life skills and enjoy basic rights and child friendly environment

Project has constructed a resource centre for promoting value based education for children between the age of 5 plus 13 in Idayankulam, Puliyankulam and Kambali village. These centres create a healthy environment for children to do their homework and get additional support in learning from the tutor/ animator who is in-charge for the centre, appointed by the project. The children are motivated to study well, and encouraged when they receive appreciation from their teachers. Resource centre has been constructed with the local contribution. Animators will guide and teach the students to exhibit their talents. Children learn painting, new games, Herbal plants album, greeting card making and take part in dance and dramas around social themes. 146 children are coming regularly to the centres and their personality will be improved.

During this reporting period, we have distributed dress material for 280 children who are socio economically marginalized. We have successfully conducted four general medical camps jointly with District government Medical hospital covers 807 children from 12 working villages.

We have also organised three days camp and training on life skills for the purpose of improving the confidence level of children, bring out their own talents. 40 Children are actively participated and learned things which are very useful for them. Exposure Visit was organised for children at Kodaikanal for exposing children to forest areas where they seen herbal plants and trees.

Three sets of Child protection awareness campaign was organised covering 12 villages. 360 children and 3247 local community and SHG covered this campaign. During this campaign IEC materials were distributed to the public. Renovation of toilets work has been done in two middle schools of Thenur and Illupaikulam with the local community participation and School Management. Recreation materials supplied to nine schools. Children enjoy playing materials provided by the project.

Obj/Result 3: 400 children between the age of 13 plus to 18 will enjoy basic rights, child protection from various forms of abuse and continue their higher education along with eco friendly life-style.

To further develop skills among children and to ensure their participation, we have introduced a variation on the earlier developed concept called “Children Parliament” to make inclusive of children between the ages of 6 to 13. This is a forum for children to come together and gain hands on experience on basic governance principles, develop skills around savings, personal hygiene, get space for expression of their

thoughts, develop their hidden talents and shape their social concern. We have played a documentary film on palar panchayat to all the working villages.

Three set of Capacity building of adolescents on child protection organised , covering 114 children. The main purpose of the training was to improve the knowledge on child protection measures among children. For ensuring girl children education, project has supported 6 children whom really struggling in continuing their higher education like Diploma, Nursing, Degree etc., 85 children were taken to child led ecological learning centre at Sankar Nagar for exposing them to understand the concept of agriculture, environment, soil and water conservation measures, rain water harvesting, organic manures etc.,

We have done placing digital library at Kambali village with the local community participation. A digital library is a special library with a focused collection of digital objects that can include text, visual material, audio material, video material, stored as electronic media formats. This library established specially for the students who are studying class 10th and 12th. It helps the students to learn the subject on their own. Thirty children were taken to exposure visit to Ethirkottai of Sattur block to understand the working mechanism of Digital Library functioning in the village. 16 students of class 10th benefitted through this program.

Campaign on Child rights was organised in 12 villages of working panchayats. We have successfully organised a rally on child rights Vs climate change jointly hands with Child Labour Department of Tamilnadu Government in Virudhunagar District. About 350 children from different blocks of Virudhunagar District actively attended in the rally. Mr. Sivagananm, District Collector of Virudhunagar District inaugurated the function.

Obj/Result 4: 1200 duty bearers from government line department (Child Welfare Officers, School Teachers, Balwadi facilitators, health extension staff, NGO field staff and other KNH partners) will follow child protection protocols and linked to National system of child protection.

During this year, duty bearers of government line department staffs like Child Welfare Officers, School Teachers, Balwadi facilitators, health extension staff, NGO field staff were trained in different topics which ensure the concept of child rights and child protection. Knowledge transfer has given to 91 Anganwadi workers in three different sets, covered Thiruchuli and Narikudi block. The topic includes child rights, child protection, child development etc.,

120 police officers were trained in the concept of child rights and child protection for the purpose of understanding children. Capacity Building on Child rights and Child protection was organised for Village Health Nurse (VHN). 120 VHN were trained in the child rights concept and nutrition Assessment, mother and child welfare and child protection acts like POCSO, JJ, Child Labour Act etc.,

Obj/Result 5: The livelihood opportunities expanded to improve income level of 500 target families by 30% through the Federation and other supplementary income generation interventions

During the year xx new self help groups consisting of yy number of women have been formed. This makes the total groups formed by Marumalarchi and are in the process of gaining exposure through their respective CLA by the existing federation called SAFE – CR. Nine women from self help group who are interested in business, assisted for socially responsible entrepreneurship related with farming. These persons are exposed to various trainings on organic farming and production and marketing of vermi compost and biological pest control production (Panchakava). These persons are engaged in marketing of vermi compost and biological pest control production.

The project has supported 4 groups at the rate of Rs. 50,000 consist of 49 members. The beneficiaries are using for it for different purposes such as children education, clearing of bushes, opening small petty shop etc., which contribute for the result of increasing the family income.

Four set of training on skill improvement on co-operatives and dairy management and Animal Husbandry Training was organised in Thiruchuli for the members of Interest Group in Thiruchuli, covered the topics are feeding, animal care, disease prevention, insurance against losses and use of organic residues etc., 196 members of interest group participated in the training.

Project has assisted 17 farmers for establishing economic viable farming to organic support given to them. Farmers will use the assistance amount to form backyard garden with organic manure. By which, the family has receiving fresh vegetables from the garden.

Three Waste Collection pit was formed in Kambali, Idaynkulama and Puliyankulam village for introducing plastic recycle mechanisms and waste management.

Obj/Result 6: Target families from 12 villages/panchayats will have access to protected water supply, environment and sanitation facilities through various state institutions and public services.

Project has supported 24 families covering 10 villages to construct individual toilet at their house. The beneficiaries were provided with the information on effects of using open defecation, importance of usage of toilets, safe waste disposal methods. As a result of this, many people came forward and build toilet on their own and some of them are constructed toilet under government program. This is the positive outcome of our project. So far, 77 toilets have been constructed in 6 project working villages. Children and women safety ensured through this activity.

Five sets of Awareness campaign on environmental sanitation and personal hygiene was organised. In many villages, communities where open defecation is in practice, project had jointly with the local Gram Panchayat put up stickers and posters to control open defecation. In order to change the mindsets of the community members IEC activities were taken up. Traditional folk media and door to door Sticker campaign, Hand bills, meeting in school, rallies and other programs for generating awareness were carried out

The Pond at CLELF which is primary source for various preliminary agriculture operations like mother bed preparation and soil preparation was done during the reporting period. The desilting work on the pond was done in approximately 7 days. The desilting work is done as planned with maximum contribution from local communities and panchayat system.

Construction of community bathing and toilets completed in two villages Mayili and Idayankulam with the local community participation for protecting the environment and ensuring girls safety.

Project has initiated the pipeline repair work for drinking water in illupaikulam village. The village does not have protected drinking water. As per the request received from the SHG, project has initiated the repair work with SHG and CRPC completed successfully.

Obj/Result 7: Child Protection Mechanism and Child Rights Forums are sustained through formation of appropriate CBOs by way of SHGs, CLA (CRPCs) and Federate them to the Block Level registered body

Women from our working villages are facilitated to form small fellowship consisting of 15 to 20 members who meet regularly on a monthly basis to discuss issues pertaining, not only to children, but also about their social living, and issues related poverty, alternative employment, village development, etc. These groups make a savings which they lend among themselves on a revolving basis. During the year we have formed 8 self-help groups in the working villages. Totally we have 20 Self Help Groups

(SHGs) consist of 263 members. Project has organised a four set of training for self help group members on savings, credit and record keeping. 118 members were covered. 40 self help group members were taken to Exposure visit to SAFE CR, Sivakasi for the purpose of exposing them to understand the concept of CLA and functioning of federation. It creates a chance for the participants to clarify their doubts with the federation leaders.

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) training was organised for the panchayat leaders and key people/representatives of the newly formed CBOs in the village for facilitating participatory skills aimed at conducting interim PIA of the project. PIA orientation training was given to the members of PRA team. Training on child rights and child protection was given to the members of Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC) functioning in the village. Members of CRPC involves in handling the child related issues with government departments. SHGs closely work with CRPC (Child Rights Protection Committee) and CMCJ in ensuring child rights and protection. Child Rights violation complaint box is set up in 6 villages which is periodically opened and monitored by the respective CRPC. 55 members were covered in two trainings. During this year, two training conducted covering 62 members in setting up complaint box and linking them to mainstream with National Child protection mechanism.

4. Unintended effects (max. 1/4 page)

We have not planned for eradication of prosopis thorny bushes which is detrimental to environment since it as seen by the local community as alternate employment opportunity by making charcoal. Luckily government of Tamilnadu and the High court of Madras has come up with a verdict and passed a new rule to eradicate all prosopis as mandatory. This is a unintended positive trend and supportive to project objective since this was our agenda for CMCJ intervention and our children were struggling to convenience parents. Now CMCJ children jointly work with Panchayats and government department to clear these thorny bushes and reclaim agriculture.

The new digital library which was started as an offshoot of child participation and planning has attracted the local high school where in the school teachers influenced the District Educational Officer to introduce this as an creative learning experience and started planning for summer special camp for language improvement which is essential for those children who pass class 12 to make good choices of their own in best courses across the State.

5. Sustainability (max. 1/2 page)

- 18 numbers of SHGs have joined as CLA and are currently linked to the existing federation which was formed by RCPDS in the previous CFCD project. The reflection system, mentoring and monitoring of the groups are done by the senior members. This is a clear indication that the intervention of SHGs will continue beyond the project period.
- The centers (like the resource centre at Kambali village, Digital library and other facilities are proposed by the respective CRPCs and are currently supervised and monitored by the respective committees jointly with Parent-teachers association for mainstreaming
- Some of the tangible results the project has achieved such as increase in student-teachers ratio, school infrastructure, level of local contribution and involvement in child protection are clear indicators that the local institutions that are promoted by the project which re led by those who participated in the capacity building training events. Theses trainings also provide platform for the local leaders to get connected to the mainstream duty bearers who attend our capacity building programs.

6. Project Management (max. 2 pages)

The details of the present project team is given below

S.No	Name	Designation
1	Dr. John Devavaram	Project Dircetor
2.	Mr.Nirmal Raja	Training Officer
3	Mr. Edwin Ponnarasan	Finance Manager
4	Mr. Bharaneedharan	Sponsorship Officer
5	Mr. Chelladurai	Program Associate-Livelihood
6	Mr. Muthukumar	Women Counsellor
7	Mr. Sivakumar	Programme Associate-CBOs
8	Mr.Yacobu	Office Assistant

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES for the staff involved in the project

Name of the Staff	Name of the Training	No of days
Mr. Nirmal Raja, Training Officer	Child Protection Policy Implementation by CCRD, Chennai	2

Mr. Nirmal Raja, Training Officer	Training on Agricultural Producer Company by SEEDS, Virudhunagar	1
Mr. Chelladurai and Mr. Muthukumar,	Participatory Impact Assessment Training organised by RCPDS, Madurai	3
Mr. Muthukumar and Ms. Kavitha, Animator	Child Rights and Child protection Training organised by CCRD, Chennai	3

Monthly and Annual reports are prepared by respective field workers in co-ordination and consultation with middle level officers/team leaders, community representatives and respective Child Protection Committee members. The contents were compiled from periodical reports received from community organisers as well financial reports submitted to the monthly staff meetings. Monthly meetings conduct a systematic review against the baseline data, survey findings, relevance to the final results/objectives as well inbuilt monitoring systems of the project. Information and data collected from the target villages using different formats that are developed under the project monitoring and need assessments.

The project initiated a participatory impact assessment done by the community representatives jointly with external facilitators as mid term review. The findings are yet to come in as final output. Once this is done we will call for a joint presentation meeting for reflection and rework on the gaps identified to be covered in the next two years of the project term.

Major stakeholders include, Children at the centre and parents, community, government service sectors, extension field staff (both NGO and Government) and locally initiated institutional framework (CBOs) will be the stakeholder circle. Further the new institutional frames evolved by the project such as SHGs, CLA and Federation, CMCJ and CRPC members in the earlier Balasakthi area used as active resource persons (since most of the villages have their relatives or community affinity across old and new villages) in evolving local new institutions, experience sharing, systems creation, government linkages, etc. Registers and records of the old CBOs will be shared as examples, while lessons learned in terms of management, government liaison will be guided by the earlier CBOs. The new villages motivated to evolve local CBOs and network the same with earlier CBOs in Balasakthi Phase I area.

- Rapport building is being maintained with Animal Husbandry, Department of Forest and other NGOs to link the beneficiaries through possible schemes of assistance and advisory support and this facilitates the process of sustainability measures of the project.
- Networking with Agricultural Department, Forest Department and other federations has been maintained by the members and project team to accelerate and sustainability of organization.

- Project team has maintained good relationship and rapport with Local Panchayat and Block Development Office, Education Department and ICDS. As a result of it, the team involving in implementing project activities by getting prior permission, circular from the concerned department with the local community support

7. Child protection (max. 1 page)

RCPDS has a detailed robust Child Protection Policy in place which is developed from the bottom line and later placed before the Board and General Body and is approved. This is in place since 2009 and reviewed during the year 2012 and 2015 incorporating some of the emerging issues from the field.

There is a detailed code of conduct evolved and duly signed by individual staff members as personal ethics on joining the organization as well projects. This is maintained in the individual personal career file of the individual staff. There is a designated Child Protection Officer who is responsible to deal with issues of complaints that come from the child reporting mechanism which is in place not only with organization but also with communities.

The CPP has specific section on code of conduct and operational mechanism as well specific focal point as Child Protection Officer Assignment. The code of conduct is signed by individual staff members as personal ethics on joining the organization as well projects.

We have Child Protection Committee consist of seven members including CBOs and Children representatives and staff of RCPDS. This committee will interfere in the matter of child related issues.

We have placed complaint box in common place in our working area where the children having grievances can put their complaint in the complaint box. The complaint box is maintained by the Child Protection officer who is responsible to deal with issues of complaints received from the affected one. In addition the issues will be dealt with concerned member as well if necessary advance level of redress will be sought from 24x7 CHILDLINE for which RCPDS is the Nodal Agency.

There are few cases of early child marriage, school drop out, sexual abuse, corporal punishment at school and discrimination were reported through the complaint box fixed in different villages. These cases were effectively handled by the CRPC and referred to childline/DCPU for rehabilitation. Based on the complaint we have received through complaint box, we have discussed this case with local CRPC. CRPC jointly with child line 1098 has taken direct action against the accused.

8. Additional information (max. 1/2 page)

RCPDS as child centered development organization and resource agency explored new avenues to ensure children and youth participation. As, renowned resource agency for participatory approaches globally, RCPDS facilitated and witnessed participation of children and youth in various forms and arenas such as socio political participation, thematic focus, environment protection and climate justice, raising voice for equity issues through advocacy and networking etc.,

Child Participation is a process rather than an event, with varying degrees of involvement from being consulted on a predetermined issue to children and youth choosing their agenda, making their own decisions and taking them forward.

Keel-Idayankulam is a small village consisting of 64 families' all dalits- located in the border of Narikudi and Kariapatti blocks of Virudhunagar district. Mayili is a nearby village to Keel-Idaynkulam village where the upper caste person is high which at time reflects in dalit children being discriminated and case conflicts exist.

Siva barathi is a dynamic young leader from Keel-Idayankulam village who had been the spark for effective child participation and created a forum of 25 adolescent's children and youth from her village to make constructive change in environment and sanitation. She is an active member of CMCJ and learned many aspects of climate change its implementation to child rights. She and her village children will meet once in a month and discuss about the monthly activities/ issues in the village. Based on the issue, the forum will prepare written complaint and submit to the concerned departments with the support of Panchayat for resolving the issue. The forum will involve in protecting the environment and sanitation, creating awareness to the local community.

10. Case Studies

ICDS in Mithalikulam Panchayat

Mithilaikulam is a Panchayat having Mithilaikulam, Illupaikulam and Puliankulam as its hamlets. This Panchayat comes within the jurisdiction of Tiruchuli Panchayat Union of Virudhunagar district. Mithilaikulam has 160 families with a population of 516 people, 245 females and 271 males, including 208 children below 18 years of age. There are 30 toddlers of 3 to 5 years of age, including 2 toddlers from Dalit community. The 75% residents of Mithilaikulam belong to Most Backward Community with a landholding pattern of 1 to 5 acres. Almost all of them depend on agriculture, specifically dry land farming, for their livelihood. The income levels of 76% of families residing in this hamlet vary from INR 36,000 to 40,000 per annum. These households have debts of varying degrees mostly from moneylenders obtained at exorbitant rates of interest to meet the immediate needs arising from sickness, education,

festivals, family functions, etc. In such a worst economic situation, the families find it very difficult to meet their daily basic needs, including the needs of their children.

RCPDS Intervention:

The only solace available for poor children of 3 to 5 years other than their families is AWC in the hamlet. In Mithilaikulam Panchayat, 3 AWCs lacked even mats for kids to sit and sleep. Children sat and slept on uncovered cement floors. The attendance was thin. The AWCs were not properly equipped with educational or play materials and child facilities. “In such a worst situation, RCPDS intervened to rescue of AWCs. RCPDS has provided the 3 AWCs with chairs for all the kids to sit comfortably, supplied foot-wears to all the kids, equipped AWCs with play and educational materials and posters of pictures to teach alphabets and names of birds and animals to the kids and an almirah to keep all my records. These facilities enable the slow learners who constitute one-third of the toddlers in my AWC are learning fast.

With the active involvement and cooperation of the staff of RCPDS, Mrs. Irulayee, Anganwadi teacher, enrolled all the 30 toddlers in the AWC. The attendance now is around 90%. During the working day, Anganwadi teacher involve all the toddlers in preschool education by way of play way method of learning, provide supplementary nutrition, arrange total immunisation, conduct health and nutrition education for pregnant and lactating mothers, maintain records for growth monitoring of kids, organise routine health check-ups, send identified toddlers for referral services and nurse expectant and lactating mothers in the village.

The AWC in Mithilaikulam is housed in a well-built building with an adequate indoor space. It has water supply facility and a separate toilet facility. The remarkable efforts of RCPDS have ensured the attendance of more than 90% of the kids in the AWC. RCPDS has supplied the AWC with large posters with pictures to enable the kids to learn the names, literacy and numeracy both in the local language, Tamil, and English as well so as to help the children increase their vocabulary of words visually and understand their meanings vividly.

The kids recited the rhymes and songs wonderfully, complete with actions and expressions, narrated the pictures painted on the walls and enjoyed playing with the Learning Aids. The AWW has given practical knowledge to the AWC children, as compared to the bookish schooling children otherwise receive.

Local community has expressed their thanks to the specific interventions of RCPDS, now there are no severely malnourished children in the village. All the children enrolled in the AWC are fully immunized. With the active participation of the staff of RCPDS, the AWW has built up a good rapport with the community and helps them to deliver better ICDS services in the village.

The specific interventions of RCPDS have changed the functioning of ICDS in the village for better in terms of indicators such as motor and cognitive development of children, use of play materials and class room equipments for learning, improvement in learning through pictures, access to quality nutrition supplement, establishment of a growth monitoring system, change in favourable environmental and hygiene practices, access to child-friendly spaces and skill development of AWW in child rights perspective and ECD concepts.

Digital Library in Kambali Village

About the village

Kambali Village belongs to the Kariapatti block of Virudhunagar District. In Kambali village, there are 136 households and total population 516. All the household were mainly depends on agriculture. About 195 children were in Kambali village. People are living in the village belongs to Dalit community. Among the adolescent children school attendance is very low, especially among girl children. In order to improve the girl children education and ensuring regular attendance, project has successfully established “Digital Library” in Kambali Village. The main purpose of implementing this activity is to improve the skills and knowledge in the area of education, computer literacy and gap filling between rural and urban children. Kambali village is lack in communication and transportation infrastructure.

Majority of the students are in the village, is not capable of purchasing reference basic textbooks and no chance for going special tuitions. The teachers are handicapped with the current knowledge due to lack of accessibility to knowledge source.

RCPDS Intervention:

Digital Library is a library supports the children to learn, read textbooks, answering model question paper on their own by operating software installed in the computer.

Project has received the request from children and community, project had work on implementing digital library in Kamabli village. The Project has identified the children’s interest and community supports, we have established the digital library at the entrance of the village there is an resource centre with three computers, where our Digital Library system is installed.

The members of the Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC), Local Panchayat and School Management Committee (SMC) jointly provided their support to RCPDS for ensuring the rights of the children. Members of CRPC involved in selection of centre in the village by getting permission from the village president and Block Developmental Officer.

Local SHG and members provided their contribution by way of cleaning and setting EB connections in the centre. For the monitoring of digital library, members of CRPC and SHG visit the library thrice in a week. This library established specially for the students who are studying class 10th and 12th. It helps the students to learn the subject on their own. 25 children are using this library. It really helps the students who are studying higher class to improve their skills and subject knowledge. When we analyse the scores of children who are using the library, their marks has been increased compared to before using the library. Karpagavalli, is a girl living with her parents in Kambali village. She is studying 10th standard in Government school. Her family is having very poor economic condition. She is not shown interest in studying subjects. She is very struggling in learning English. After she attends digital library, she shows interest in studying and learning things through visual medium. Now, She has written her public exam and waiting for results.