

RCPDS

PROJECT REPORT FOR THE YEAR SEPT 2014 - MARCH 2015

MARUMALARCHI - 21683



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FACT SHEET

- ✓ Additional equipments to enhance the learning concepts of Early Childhood Development to benefit 207 children in five crèche centers between the age group of 0 – 5.
- ✓ Parents committee to monitor regular supply of nutrition supplement and orient parents of children who suffer with 3rd degree mal nourishment in preparation of nutritious food supplements from locally available materials in 9 villages.
- ✓ 12 Bio Intensive Gardens (BIG) established to promote regular availability of green organic vegetables for crèche kitchen.
- ✓ 21 children from dalit families who were not enrolled to Government run crèche centers
- ✓ 60 Government run ECD crèche teachers and caretakers are trained in child protection and early childhood concepts.
- ✓ 3 General health check up medical camps were organized jointly with District Government Hospital Doctors, where 535 children from 0 to 18 years benefitted. Identified 2 cases were supported for higher medical assistance through the project.
- ✓ Protected water provision installed to benefit 120 children in Illupaikulam Middle school.
- ✓ 123 children from partner villages communities learn organic farming, soil and water conservation, use of herbal medicinal plants, non-conventional energy systems, rain water harvest and preparation of organic inputs and pest repellents through the Child led ecological learning center.
- ✓ 72 adolescent girls trained in life skills through group peer learning approach
- ✓ 300 children enrolled as new members to Children Movement for Climate Justice – CMCJ
- ✓ At the district level 65 police officials , 35 school teachers and 85 fellow NGO field workers trained in child protection measures and recently introduced Child Protection Acts.
- ✓ 12 Self Help Groups with 171 women members formed across target villages
- ✓ Child Rights Protection Committees formed in 5 villages
- ✓ Traditional Seed Festival organized in which 2000 children from the District participated and learned about native varieties of minor millets and cereals
- ✓ CMCJ children visited 4 schools to mainstream “National Green Corps” with CMCJ and oriented climate change factors and its implication to Child Rights/Protection.

PROJECT REPORT FOR THE YEAR - SEPTEMBER 2014 - MARCH 2015

Project name: **MARUMALARCHI**

Project No. **21683**

Project partner: **RCPDS**

Project Type: **CFCD**

“Making a Difference in lives of children” It is our great pleasure to give feedback on the great support and the mighty power of your great gesture of love that helped our children who were in very bad position due to poverty and are vulnerable to fall victim to leading an adult life of wage earning, support their siblings and socially excluded without a way out to basic education, health care and access to Child Rights.

Resource Centre for Participatory Development Studies - RCPDS in partnership with Kindernothilfe, Germany initiated a new development intervention during this year with special focus on children from socially marginalized dalit families in three panchayats of Kariapatti, Narikudi and Tiruchuli Blocks of Virudunagar Districts in Tamilnadu, India. Families in the partnership villages are very remote and are exclusively dependent on walking for every basic family civil service. Basic livelihoods of these families depend on agriculture during the monsoon season and goat rearing round the year. Children below the age of ten attend schools in the nearby area run by the local government. In most cases these schools do not have proper class room facilities including teachers. Often five classes are handled by two teachers. Children, especially girl children, drop out at the level of class eight (middle school) and fall victim to wage earning situation. Access to higher education is a far reality since the high schools are located in the nearby town which is, by any radius, minimum 10 Kms distance. In the absence of regular public transport facility, proper road access and hostel facility not many children or parents send their children to higher studies. Basic health facilities and protected water supply are far beyond the accessibility of these villages.



Based on a systematic and scientific study a participatory need analysis was done by RCPDS jointly with the local community adults and children. Based on the outcomes, to ensure children enjoying their basic rights as well communities are prepared to sustain their strengths, as a joint venture, to ensure sustainable child friendly scenario, RCPDS jointly with your support through KNH committed to assist children in these villages in community context. During the year the project developed systematic bench marks, workable action plan and mechanism of parents and community involvement aimed at sustainability were done during the initial months. There are about 1775 children below the age of eighteen years benefit from various interventions of the project from twelve villages. Of the 1775 children 400 are sponsored through KNH.

Early Childhood Development:

RCPDS, during the year made a systematic survey of all children between the age of 6 months to 5 years in all the partner communities and the level of government support for medical



assistance, nutrition supplement and early childhood development centers run by Government. Based on the survey outcome a systematic participatory work plan was evolved jointly with parents, Government extension workers and children themselves. There are 318 number of children eligible to attend the balwadi centers but out of this only 207 children are regular and other were out

of schools. During the reporting period, the project managed to enroll 21 non balwadi going children to attend the centers by convincing the parents and teachers.

The project, with a view to enhance the learning atmosphere and supported with learning equipments. Five of the balwadi centers were assisted with mats and clean flooring to enable children to play and sleep during the rest time. In addition wall paintings of various pictures were drawn to improve the basic concepts through visual skills. Few of the Balwadi centers are in one room where children study rest in the afternoon and supplementary food kitchen is also run in the same place. This pose a great life risk for children and child protection was at

stake. During the reporting period the project assisted three balwadi centers to construct an independent cooking space jointly with the contribution of parents and local panchayats.

RCPDS being a resource organization for ensuring Child Rights, and Nodal organization for the 24 x 7 National Child Protection services in Virudunagar District manage to convene series of training program, especially for early childhood centers (Balwadi centers) across the District for supervisors, teachers and care takers on child protection, teaching methods to ensure children learn ECD concepts such as cognitive skills, personal regulation, visual and language skills. This intervention covered 60 government personnel to benefit almost 1200 children in the District.



In all the 12 target villages, status of mal nourishment, underweight situation was assessed among children between 6 months to 5 years. These were given special attention directly in their respective balwadi centers with nutrition supplement and the parent committees established by the project Marumalarchi support this intervention not only by monitoring but also by establishing Bio-Intensive kitchen gardens with organic inputs. A systematic monitoring system is maintained by each of the parents committee for regular tracking of the growth/improvement.



The project with a view to ensure good health of all the children below the age of 18 years three general health check up camps were organised in which 535 children were tested and assisted basic medicinal support. Those who were identified with need for further assistance or advance treatment were referred to nearby District

headquarters hospital for further treatment.

Adolescent children from the target villages were linked to the children led ecological learning centre run by the Balsakthi children in the earlier KNH supported area and visit the center on a regular basis during weekends. Here children learn organic farming practices, local herbal plants and their medicinal values, soil and water conservation measures, rain water harvest, use of non conventional energy, compost pitting and vermin compost preparation. CMCJ volunteers assist them in learning. Apart from this children are also allocated small piece of land to try out cultivation of pulses, minor millets and cereals. This attracts their parents to support their children in agriculture and continue agriculture as part of the food security process.

A Block Level Seed festival is organized by the project jointly with CMCJ (Children



Movement for Climate Justice) in which around 2000 children participated and set up stalls with 108 varieties of local seeds of paddy, ground nut, pulses and millets. This was amazing for children to witness such a huge variety of food crops grown in their area. A small cultural team performed cultural activities of mime, dance and street plays with messages of child rights,

environment protection, importance of education and health and personal hygiene. Few of the staffs by our children demonstrated the learning of production of organic manure, vermin compost, pest repellent and crop growth stimulant.

In three villages level children from the middle school age (5 plus to 13) are formed into small child clubs, which encourage children to learn special focus areas, such as environment protection, savings, debates around child rights protection and child participation in decision making. Basic health education, personal hygiene and nutritional intake from locally available material are thematic areas where child club is involved. Members of the club are encouraged to make small savings to encourage a habit of savings for the future.

During the year 12 women Self Help groups were formed in the target villages to anchor them as child rights defenders as well a local initiative aimed at sustainable child rights protection. These groups have 171 members who play the leading role of internal savings and co-ordinate

with other parents as lead groups. So far they have made a savings of 28,000/- which is lent among their members on a nominal interest rate to meet emergency expenses. The Cluster Level Association and Block level Federation from RCPDS – KNH previous partnership area (Balasakthi 21680) members regularly visit the new group members on a monthly basis to give them handholding support with book keeping and linking them to local main line institutions.



Capacity building of Stake holders on Child Rights



Your assistance in the whole project frame is seen from ‘Rights Perspective’. This means basically recognizing that children a Right Holders and all the others, especially the service providers as “Duty bearers”. Also in the long run Child Rights is to be ensured and mainstreamed by linking them and capacitating the government service providers. With this in mind the

project during the reporting period trained 65 police Child Welfare Officer, 35 regular Government school teachers and 85 fellow NGO field workers in the District in basic concepts of Child Rights, Child Protection, recent legislations to Child Protection in the country and what is expected out these officers in their role etc., are given in series of training sessions. The status of RCPDS being the Nodal organization to the 24 x 7 National Child Protection system supported by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India is used in the process to access the mainstream duty bearers. This also mean a project like ours facilitating with stakeholders concerned to the child to create space for the child to enjoy their basic rights.



Palar Panchayat (Children Parliament)

To further develop skills among adolescent children and to ensure their participation, we have introduced “Palar Panchayat” in one of the panchayat to make inclusive of children between the ages of 13 to 18. 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. In addition from the new target villages we have enrolled 300 plus members to the ongoing KNH supported Children Movement for Climate Justice. These children will jointly undergo training programs with the older children to learn about climate change and its relevance to child rights.

Balsakthi (Power of Children) Micro Entrepreneurship

The earlier SHG federation initiated by Balasakthi women self help groups re already running a small micro entrepreneurship of producing nutritional supplement powder using available cereals and pulses from the area with the support of KNH. They gradually expanded their activities to production of cement bricks, production of vermin compost, etc as income generation activities. These skills are now introduced to the new group members and the new members show lot of interest and enthusiasm in the income generation activities. These will gradually grow and once they are confident with the skills, we may expand the production unit in the coming years. .



In general the year had been a blessing with your great support and prayers for the needy children and their families. Being the first year the partner families have well understood the outgoing heart of our sponsors’ miles across in Germany and are in the process of making progress in changing their family struggle aimed at sustainable development.

**Project Report Prepared by: John Devavaram
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(on behalf of the project)**