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Service Initiative for Voluntary Action

Annual Report

2018

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Message from Director



Yet another year has passed in the Trust's continuous work for the development of downtrodden sections of the society and for safeguarding the children from all types of abuse and exploitation. Our regular activities continued in the 15 villages of Melaneelithanallur block in Tirunelveli district, by utilizing the service charges we got from the

Revolving Fund operations. The project funded by HEKS-EPER, Switzerland also continued among the hill tribes living in the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu. Under this project, 2 more staff joined the program, to work from two new Hills. By the end of the year, the Trust activities could ensure good success in this project. We could also become a partner of the GlobalGiving, USA, with a project to assist the persons with disability in Melaneelithanallur and Manur blocks of Tirunelveli district.

I thank the generous individual and institutional donors, Government officials, public, well wishers, Board members and the team of dedicated staff members, as without their support, the accomplishments could not have been achieved.

S.S.Shiva

Managing Trustee/ Director

About SIVA Trust

SIVA Trust is a registered Public Charitable Trust working since 1994 with the ultimate mission of poverty reduction among poor and the downtrodden with exclusive focus on prevention and eradication of child labour in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu.

Objectives of the trust

The Trust operates and designs development programmes with the following objectives:

1. Empowerment & socio -economic development of the downtrodden.
2. Empowerment & sustained livelihood for poor women in rural and semi-urban areas.
3. Access to savings and credit for income generation of the poor women.
4. Quality education and skill development for youth.
5. Improving health status of women and children.
6. Creating awareness on HIV/AIDS, life style related and contagious diseases.
7. Democratizing panchayats for local self governance.
8. Prevention and eradication of child labour.
9. Prevention of child abuse and protection of child rights.
10. Ensuring the land rights of the tribal people and their economic improvement through the land rights
11. Creating awareness on disaster risk reduction in hills and forest areas.
12. Uniting the tribal people under a democratic institution, by providing them necessary training for the same.
13. Helping persons with disability in accessing assistance from Government and private agencies for their health and mobility concerns
14. Orienting textile workers on requirement of labour laws like formation of Internal Complaints Committee to prevent sexual abuse of women workers and the Works Committee to ensure the legal entitlements of all workers.

Vision

“Total empowerment of rural semi urban people in the aspect of Socio-Economic, Health and Education status.”

Mission

“Awareness Generation, Education programs and Trainings to the target people in order to achieve the vision of the organization.”

Working Areas

Tirunelveli District	Melaneelithanallur block (under TdH-NL project)
Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kanyakumari• Tirunelveli• Virudhunagar• Theni• Tiruppur• Coimbatore• Nilgiris• Erode• Dharmapuri• Salem districts (under HEKS-EPER project)
Coimbatore district	(under MSI-TN project)

Major activities during 2018

- ü Socio-economic empowerment of Women.
- ü Income generation programs through linkages with SHGs.
- ü Health awareness programmes.
- ü Child Rights Protection.
- ü Organizing evening tuition centers.
- ü Enrolling children back to school.
- ü Counselling & support to affected children.
- ü Conducting awareness programs in the community on cleanliness.
- ü Getting land right to the tribal people under Forest Rights Act, 2006
- ü Forming Village Development Committees, Farmers Interest Groups
- ü Training tribal farmers on agricultural development and Govt schemes
- ü Orienting tribal people on Disaster Risk Reduction
- ü Arranging market research study for establishing market linkages to things produced by tribal farmers
- ü Organizing the tribal people into their own Federation and training them on leadership quality and financial management
- ü Getting the tribal people, community certificate, old age pension, tribal welfare board membership card, ration card, free LPG connection, seeds/ saplings/fertilizer/agri. implements on subsidy from Govt agencies.
- ü Creating awareness among management and work force in spinning mills, on labour laws, formation and monitoring the effective functioning of Internal Complaints Committee (for the protection of women employees) and Grievance Redressal Mechanism (through Works Committee)

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS



Mr. S.S.Shiva
Managing Trustee



Mr. T. Selwyn
Finance Trustee



Mrs. R. Hemima
Trustee



Mr. T.T. Ramesh
Raja
Trustee



Mr. A. Narayanan
Trustee

Key Accomplishments during 2018

Annual Day function:

SIVA Trust celebrated its 24th year of completion in a solemn function at Vanniconendal village on April 8, 2018, participated by 175 representatives of the stakeholders. In the function presided over by the Managing Trustee, Mr. S.S.Shiva, the Chief guest was Mr. P.R. Rajendran, Dy.S.P., Sankarankovil,



who lauded the services of the Trust in the backward block of Melaneelithanallur and assured all support of his department to the services of the Trust. He appealed to the gathered public to stop child labour and child marriage at any cost. Teachers Rajeshkumar, Saravanan and Samy told about their association and experiences with the activities of SIVA Trust. Student representatives presented dances and maim shows. The Managing Trustee announced 5 new goals to be taken up by SIVA Trust staff in that area during the silver jubilee year .

Capacity building of Women SHG members on leadership qualities:

During the year 2018, there were 147 women self help groups functioning with 2038 members. These members saved Rs.22,84,200 and 1487 members availed internal loan to the tune of Rs. 6,23,98,000. Besides, 438 members availed



Revolving Fund loan of Rs. 1,74,76,000 (Rs. 89,67,000 for agriculture operations, Rs.9,90,000 for other income generation activities and Rs.75,19,000 for education, house construction, medical expenses and other emergency purposes.

Intensive training program for Women SHG members was organised at Vanniconendal (74) in April and November, at Meenthulli (68) in the month of May, at Vadakku Puliamatti (97) in the month of June and August, at Therku Achampatti (127) in September, Melaneelithanallur (358) in October and Dharmathurani (88) in November, when the members learnt about their roles and functions as the leaders and members of the SHGs. The training program helped the participants to learn their roles in the group economic welfare of the members and the community as a whole. In these programs, the members explained how their income improved by availing loan from the Trust and starting small scale business.

Youth Club activities:

Youth club meetings were conducted by the Education Motivator when the youth were asked to work for the goals of SIVA Trust, in their respective areas, to stop child labour, child marriage, to keep the village clean and healthy. They should play a role in changing the society for the better. A total of 277 youth participated and they assured to work along with the Trust.



Evening Tuition centres :

These supplementary education centres functioned initially in 6 villages (Vanniconendal, Thirumalapuram, Achampatti, Kurukkalpatti, Devarkulam and Meenthulli) with a total strength of 147, where the children with poor academic knowledge were given extra coaching to cope up with the exam requirements.

They were also given sessions on general knowledge and extracurricular activities. In September, one more centre was added raising the students' strength to 193.



ANC/PNC and Adolescent Girls Meeting :

In the working villages, a total of around 120 ANC/PNC mothers got advice and counselling from the regular meetings conducted by the Health Worker of the Trust. The services of VHN and Govt Hospital Doctors were also utilised to advise and orient the pre-natal and post-natal mothers on maintaining their own health and that of the child, importance of breast feeding and vaccination, intake of nutritious food etc.

A total of 40 adolescent girls 'meetings were conducted in the target area in different months, through which more than 608 (cumulative) girls were benefited with knowledge on personal hygiene, especially during menstrual period, intake of nutritious food, good touch – bad touch and evils of child labour and child marriage .



Children's Club meetings:



The Trust has children's clubs effectively functioning in all the working villages. Regular meetings are conducted by the staff to orient them on child rights. In the month of January and February such meetings were conducted at 15 centres, attended by 147 children (77 boys and 70 girls) and in April, May and June (15 centres -157). They were told about the importance of education and the evils of child labour. On the information provided by these children, 4 drop outs were identified, counselled and re -schooled during that month. They were also advised to utilise the services of evening tuition centres organised by SIVA Trust. In the month of August, September and October, meetings were conducted in all the 15 villages (157) to orient them on life skill education and the ways to face problems and how to handle them.

Summer camp for children:

To engage the children in our contact usefully during the summer vacation, a camp was organised for two days in our working village, Thirumalapuram on May 14 & 15, 2018. The Managing Trustee Mr. S.S.Shiva took part on the first day and the Finance Trustee Mr.T. Selwyn was present on the second day and interacted with the children. All the other staff including the tuition teachers were present on both the days and facilitated the camp. A total of 83 boys and 94 girls took part. Anbalagan of Meenthulli taught them on various rural traditional arts, while Allidurai and Karikalan taught them 7 types of yogasan. The children enjoyed the two-day event.



Activity for public infrastructure:



As a result of the motivation done during the Women's Day celebration and on other earlier occasions, the SHG members of Vanniconendal village decided among themselves and staged a slogan shouting demonstration carrying empty pots, in front of District Collectorate, Tirunelveli on the occasion of grievance day on 12-3-2018 demanding regular drinking water supply in the

village. As a result of that, an official from TWAD Board came to the village on the very next day and assured the people, in the presence of SIVA Trust staff, to solve the drinking water problem in the village, as soon as possible.

Education awareness meetings :

Awareness on importance of education and the child's right to get good education were given by our Education Motivator by organising occasional meetings in schools. In 10 such meetings held during the year, 735 students in total attended and got benefitted.



Health awareness camp and meeting

Following the spread of Dengue fever in our target area, a special awareness meeting was organised in 7 villages and 79 people participated. Conducted special awareness medical camp in Kurukkalpatti and Ayalpatti villages.



International Women's Day celebration :



SIVA Trust organised Women's Day celebration on March 8th at Thirumalapuram, in which more than 210 women SHG members participated. While SIVA Trust Managing Trustee S.S.Shiva greeted the women on that occasion, State level Health Trainer Mrs. Rajam spoke on the importance of toilet use and ICDS Supervisor Mrs. Annammal spoke on women and child health. The members presented song and dance programs and prizes were distributed.

Counselling:

During survey conducted in April, 21 drop out and child labour were identified. Out of them, 12 were re-schooled, and for the remaining 8, the counselling by the Trust staff continued on the importance of education.

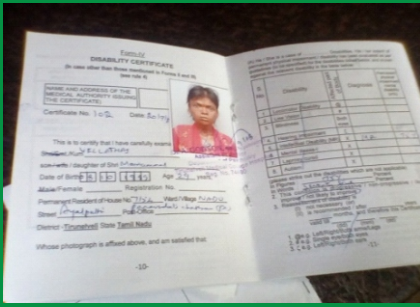


Special Gram Sabha meeting :

During the Gram Sabha meetings on May 1 at Melaneelithanallur and Periyakovilankulam, the Trust staff explained the activities of SIVA Trust in those villages and also the 5 goals set by the Trust for its silver jubilee year and got those goals adopted as resolutions in the meetings, for the panchayat staff to follow, with the cooperation of the public .



Assistance to Persons with Disability:



SIVA Trust staff located more than 300 persons and children with disabilities in the 15 working villages and took up a special fund raising campaign to help them, in the month of June, by joining the GlobalGiving / Impact Guru Accelerator programme and mobilised donation worth more than USD 5,000 for the project. Meanwhile, the staff are engaged in getting them the National Disability ID card, pension and other Government schemes available, by interacting with the Tirunelveli District Differently abled Rehabilitation Officer.

1. ID card - Got for 3 persons
2. Aadhar - Got for 1 person
3. Pension - 16 applications submitted
4. Train/ Bus pass - 14 applications pursued

Partnering in SAVE/MSITN Project:

SIVA Trust has been a partner of the Multi Stakeholder Initiative- Tamil Nadu and it became the lead NGO in Coimbatore district in the programme to create legal awareness to the staff and workers in the spinning mills in the four districts of Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode and Dindigul. As a part of this project titled 'Systematic Improvement of Labour Conditions in Spinning Mills', the trainers of the organisation trained by SAVE conducted training for the middle management, staff and workers in The Suguna Mills Pvt.Ltd, Kuniyamuthur, Coimbatore and also established Internal Complaints Committee and Works Committee. Efforts were made to do similar work in some other spinning mills.



HEKS Project activities:



As an implementing partner of the project ' Tamil Nadu People's Forum for Land Rights (TPFLR), supported by HEKS- EPER, Switzerland, for ensuring improved quality of life for 22000 Adivasi families in Tamil Nadu, through land mobilisation and sustainable livelihood, SIVA Trust has been

implementing the project work in the Districts of Kanyakumari, Virudhunagar, Theni, Coimbatore, Erode, Dharmapuri, and Salem (Yercaud Hills) from the year 2017. In addition, Nilgiris, Tirunelveli and Tiruppur districts were added during the year 2018 by appointing new staff.

During 2018, the Trust helped 514 target people in filling individual and



community rights claim forms under Forest Rights Act, 2006, lobbied with officials and got 2210 titles for a total area of 92496 .354 Hectares. The Trust motivated the target people to form 40 Farmers' Interest Groups (FIG), for getting Government benefits. It supported 3124 people in getting

benefits from Government schemes. Besides, the staff organised 37 model farmers' training (2461) for teaching agro-ecological techniques and organic farming methodologies and also 43 DRR awareness programmes (3589) on disaster risk reduction, prevention, protection of life and properties at the time of disasters and seeking relief and rehabilitation from Government and other resources.



The intervention helped 841 tribals increase their income level and 1061 tribals improved their life status. A market study by an agriculture scientist was arranged in the target districts (Kanyakumari, Theni, Erode and Dharmapuri), for analysing the availability of various products and to identify two

or three potential crops/products, assess the main constraints (and underlying causes) and opportunities around the value chain of these products and propose intervention strategies that can address these constraints. The Trust sent three staff for an exposure visit to Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh for knowledge improvement, getting new ideas and to take initiatives in their allocated areas, based on that knowledge .

Testimonials

<p>M.Vanmathi (16) D/o Muthu Pandiyan of Muthukrishnapuram dropped out in 10th standard as she fell sick in the middle of the course and later joined work in a spinning mill at Malayankulam. She was motivated, her parents counselled by the Trust staff and she joined class in Revathi Tailoring Center, Sankarankovil.</p>	
<p>P.Kanchana W/o Puthiyan of Melaneelithanallur has 3 children. She is a member of the SHG started by SIVA Trust in her village and she has been saving Rs.100 per month and has a total saving of Rs. 3600. She availed loan of Rs. 50,000 to develop her husband's tea shop, from which the family is earning Rs. 17,000 per month.</p>	
<p>M.Uchimakaali W/o Muthukrishnan of Vannikonendal also joined the SHG started by the Trust in her village. Her husband is a person with disability and he is having a small electronics shop in the village. She availed RF loan of Rs. 50,000 from the Trust to expand the shop, from which they are now earning 15,000 per month. This helped in giving good education to their two children.</p>	
<p>P.Alaguthuraichi W/o Periyasamy of Periyakovilankulam has 2 children. Being a member of the SHG started in her village by the Trust, she availed RF loan of Rs. 50,000 for agriculture development purpose and she is confident of earning sizable income for her family's sustenance.</p>	
<p>P. Kasthuri W/o Periyasmy of Aayalpatti, SHG member got 3 daughters. She availed Rs.50,000 as loan from the Trust to augment the family business of a steel products workshop in the village and as a result, they started earning 18,000 per month, sufficient for the sustenance of the family.</p>	
<p>M. Muthulakshmi W/o Muthuraj of Aayalpatti has 2 girl children. Her husband is a drunkard and never takes care of the family. She is a member of SHG and availed loan of Rs. 50,000 for cultivating maize, from which she has started earning sizable income for her family's sustenance.</p>	
<p>C. Muneeswari of Thonukal is a pregnant lady, always struggling with some kind of sickness. Our Health worker found her to be anaemic and low weight and advised her to take nutritious food and vegetables. Now her health condition has remarkably improved enabling safe delivery.</p>	

Conclusion

During the calendar year 2018, SIVA Trust has made some significant improvement in the socio-economic and cultural background in its project area. Given more opportunities and support, the Trust can expand such services to other nearby areas, using the band of experienced staff it has.

The Trust looks forward for valuable suggestions, voluntary assistance and effective support from all sections of the community in implementing its goal of creating child exploitation free environment in the areas where it is presently working. The Trust is ready to shoulder more responsibilities in this field or any other field, which will be useful for the society in general.

Contact us: -

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