

CHAPTER II

ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN DINDIGUL DISTRICT

Dindigul District is an administrative region in the South of Tamilnadu, India. Dindigul District was carved out of the composite Madurai District on 15.09.1985.¹²⁵ The name of the district has been derived from the rock hill on which the fort is constructed, looks like '*Dhindu*' (pillow) when viewed from south east angle and hence the city is known as Dindigul.¹²⁶ This fort is at a height of 280 feet. It is located between 10° 05” and 10° 09” North Latitude and 77° 30” and 78° 09” East Longitude and its Mean Sea Level is + 280.11 M.¹²⁷

This district is bound by Erode, Coimbatore, Karur and Trichy Districts in the North by Sivaganga and Trichy on the East, by Madurai district on the South and by Theni and Coimbatore districts and Kerala state on the west. It is spread over an area of 6266.64 sq.Km.¹²⁸ It comprises three revenue divisions viz., Dindigul, Palani and Kodaikanal. It comprises 8 taluks viz., Dindigul, Natham, Nilakottai, Vedasandur, Palani, Oddanchatram, Athoor and Kodaikanal and it has 14 Panchayat Unions. According to 2001 census, its population is 19,23,014 and population density is 306 per square kilometer. The literacy rate of the district is 79 percent.¹²⁹

The Non-Governmental Organizations increased in number since independence. Both registered and unregistered NGOs rendering services to the people with different mission, objectives and goals. Dindigul district is one of

¹²⁵ *Dindigul District Statistical Handbook, 2006*, Published by Assistant Director of Statistics, Dindigul District, 2006, pp.i-ii.

¹²⁶ *Tamil Lexicon*, Vol.III, University of Madras, Madras, 1982, p.1872.

¹²⁷ W.Francis, *Gazetteer of South India*, Government Press, Madras, 1906, p.231.

¹²⁸ *Dindigul District Statistical Handbook, 2006, op.cit.*, p.ii.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, p.iii.

the backward districts of Tamil Nadu. It gives a scope for the NGOs to establish in the district and to extend their services to the people.

The victims of governmental indifference and others seeking help out of social and economic necessity and above all the genuine desire of an individual or a group of people to render service to the needy, caused the rise and growth of a number of NGOs in Tamilnadu in general and Dindigul District in particular. They are ideological, secular, religious and communal oriented. They render service within their limitations and concentrate on specific fields.¹³⁰

The number of registered Non-Governmental Organizations in Dindigul District are 936.¹³¹ Among them 542 NGOs are registered under Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 and 394 NGOs are registered under Trust Acts.¹³² Considering the multifarious activities, extent of their operations and commonalities in their welfare programmes 25 major NGOs are selected for the study as below in the table 2.1:

Table 2.1
List of Non-Governmental Organisations selected for the study
in Dindigul District

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO	Abbreviation
1	Gandhigram Trust	-----
2	People Education for Action and Community Emancipation Trust	PEACE Trust
3	Rural Education and Action for Liberation	REAL
4	Dindigul Multipurpose Social Service Society	DMSSS
5	St. Joseph's Development Trust	SJDT
6	Rural Education for Action and Development Agency	READ Agency

¹³⁰ Interview with Mr. B.S.J. Victor, NGO Advisor (Freelance Advisor), Dindigul on 13.08.2008.

¹³¹ Dindigul District Registrar Office Letter No.6526/B-3/2008, Dated 4.11.2008.

¹³² Interview with Mr.V.Pandiar, District Registrar, Dindigul District, on 4.11.2008.

7	Council for Health, Education and Rural Upliftment	CHERU
8	Centre for Education and Development Alternative Trust	CEDA Trust
9	Rural Welfare Organisation	RWO
10	Christian Fellowship Community Health Centre and Christian Education Health and Development Society	CFCHC & CEHDS
11	Social Awareness And Development Organisation for Women	SAADOW
12	World Vision India	World Vision
13	Christian Fellowship Hospital	CFH
14	Centre for Improved Rural Health and Environmental Protection	CIRHEP
15	Centre for Human And Natural Resources Development	CHANARD
16	Rural Education and Development Association	REDA
17	Mother Saradadevi Social Service Society	MSSSS
18	Rural Integrated Development Organisation	RIDO
19	Centre for Rural Education Research and Development Association	CENTREREDA
20	Basic Integrated Rural Development Society	BIRDS
21	Society For Serving Humanity	SSH
22	Sri Sakthi Social Economical and Educational Welfare Trust	SAKTHI Trust
23	Annai Dherasa Women's and Child Welfare Trust	Annai Dherasa Trust
24	Association for Sarva Seva Farms	ASSEFA
25	Society for Peoples Action for Change and Education	SPACE

In this chapter an attempt is made to seek the history of these NGOs , their mission, aims and objectives, management, funds mobilisation and welfare

programmes implemented. It is considered essential in order to understand the role of these NGOs towards the social, economical, political and educational development of people in Dindigul District.

1. Gandhigram Trust

Mahatma Gandhi was travelling by train on the way to Madurai on February 2, 1946. A few thousand villagers of Chinnalapatti near Dindigul were yearning to have his '*darshan*', (visit) Gandhiji came out and blessed the people.¹³³

In 1947 Gandhiji nominated Dr. T.S.Soundaram, a direct disciple of Gandhi, as *Pradhinidhi* (representative) of Kasthuriba Gandhi National Memorial Trust for organising its activities in then Madras State.¹³⁴ Gandhiji asked her to start the welfare activities of the trust in a backward area. Dr.T.S.Soundaram searched throughout the old Madurai District for a suitable place. L.K.B. Lagumiah, a veteran freedom fighter of Chinnalapatti came with some of his friends and narrated the story of how the villagers had a *darshan* of Mahatma in the present location Gandhigram. So the seeds of Gandhigram were sown in the very place on which Gandhiji blessed the people.¹³⁵

L.K.B. Lagumiah offered 25 acres of land on the road side with a big well. The TVS family not only helped Gandhigram financially and spared the service of the Civil Engineers working in their concerns. Haji Abdul Kadhar, a tanner contributed a block in Gandhigram known as *Akbar Majit*.¹³⁶

The Gandhigram Trust was established on October 7, 1947 with the objectives of basic education to the children particularly to develop women and

¹³³ P.S.Chandraprabu, *op.cit.*, p.50.

¹³⁴ Dr.Sushila Nayar, President, Kasturba Health Society, Wardha, 'Dr. Soundaram', *Gandhigram Golden Jubilee Souvenir*, Gandhigram,1997, p.7.

¹³⁵ P.S.Chandraprabu, *op.cit.*, p.49.

¹³⁶ Samir Banerjee and Chitra Balakrishnan, *Gandhian Thought, Social Transformation and Gandhigram*, Gandhigram Trust, Gandhigram, 2003, p.15.

children, medical and health care, self employment especially through hand spinning and weaving to achieve the Integrated Rural Development.¹³⁷ On the day of inauguration of Gandhigram Trust, Mahatma Gandhi sent a blessing telegram “Success attends where truth reigns”.¹³⁸ This blessing message is displayed in all the Units of the Trust and also practised by all volunteers and the staff of Gandhigram Trust.

A Pre-Basic School and a Basic Teacher Training School for training the teachers of basic education and Gramasevika Training Centre were established in 1947. Learning through work and practicing dignity of labour were emphasised in these schools. The pre-basic school developed stage by stage and become a higher secondary school in 1978 and known as Thambithottam Higher Secondary School.¹³⁹

The Gandhigram Rural Institute was formally started in July 1956 to give education to rural population from primary to University level. Later it developed into a Deemed University in 1976 with a number of departments and disciplines and continued to engage in disseminating Gandhian thoughts and values to rural development.¹⁴⁰ College for Teachers Training in the name Lakshmi College of Education was established in 1967.¹⁴¹

A hospital and dispensary in the name of Kasturba Maternity Home was established in 1947 at Chinnalapatti rendering health services to the community. With the donations from the voluntary organization ‘Funds for Asia’ (USA) the hospital was built and inaugurated in December 1962.¹⁴² Today it has grown into a well equipped General Hospital to meet the basic needs of men, women

¹³⁷ *Trust Deed, Gandhigram Trust*, Gandhigram, 21.6.1976, p.5.

¹³⁸ G.Pankajam, "Annalin Adichuvattil Aimbathandu Payanam" *op.cit.*, p.1.

¹³⁹ S.Ganesh, *Peer Review of Gandhigram*, Gandhigram Trust, September, 1999, p.6.

¹⁴⁰ *Idem.*

¹⁴¹ Samir Banerjee and Chitra Balakrishnan, *op.cit.*, p.59.

¹⁴² Interview with Dr. R.Kousalya Devi, Managing Trustee, Gandhigram Trust, Gandhigram, on 5.8.2008.

and children with sufficient infrastructural facilities. The hospital provides excellent Maternity services. A rural branch of the Hospital has been started at Gandhipalayam, near Kasipalayam, Vedasandur Taluk since 1986. The Artificial Limb Research Centre has been functioning from 1988 with the assistance of Department of Science and Technology.¹⁴³

The Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health and Family Planning was established in 1964. In 1981 this institute attained the status of a Public Charitable Trust and renamed as Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health and Family Welfare Trust.¹⁴⁴

Sowbhagya Illam, the Children Home was established in 1950. The Sevikashramam was started in 1947 to rehabilitate the widows, destitute women and deserted wives by imparting vocational training to them.¹⁴⁵ Lakshmi Seva Sangam was established in 1977 as a separate registered society to create rural employment and to make quality and affordable Indian medicines. Khadi and Village Industries Public Charitable Trust (K&VIPCT) was established in 1977 to create rural employment.¹⁴⁶ The Gandhigram is registered as a society on 7th October 1947 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and converted to Trust on 21st June 1976. The Registration Number is 2974/76.¹⁴⁷ The registered office of the trust is situated in Gandhigram, Gandhigram Post, Dindigul Taluk - 624 302.

Mission

- In a true spirit of swaraj the trust is emphasizing local tradition, self help and non violence.

¹⁴³ Samir Banerjee and Chitra Balakrishnan, *op.cit.*, p.92.

¹⁴⁴ Dr.R.Kousalya Devi, 'Gandhigram's Achievements in the field of Health', *Golden Jubilee Souvenir*, Gandhigram Trust, Gandhigram, 1997, p.5.

¹⁴⁵ S.Ganesh, *op.cit.*, pp.8-9.

¹⁴⁶ Samir Banerjee and Chitra Balakrishnan, *op.cit.*, p.195.

¹⁴⁷ *Trust Deed, Gandhigram Trust*, Gandhigram, 21.6.1976, p.16.

- To provide affordable access to essential services such as health and education.
- To co-create the knowledge and skills with local communities leveraging their traditional strengths and making these applicable to their lives.
- To generate employment and livelihood opportunities with a stress on self management.¹⁴⁸

Aims and Objectives

- To eradicate mass illiteracy in the villages, diffusion of useful knowledge.
- To work for the reconstruction of the social order in our country along the lines laid down by Mahatma Gandhi.
- To train workers and especially women for the various items of the Gandhian Constructive programmes.
- To undertake educational reconstruction in villages through ‘Naitalim’ (Pre-basic, basic, post-basic and adult education).
- To encourage village sanitation and health, medical and maternity services in villages and to train workers for the same.
- To organize peasants, village artisans and agricultural labourers on non-violent lines with a view to the raising of their standard of life in general.
- To train students for village work.
- To organize *Gramaseva Sangams*.
- To establish welfare institutions for women and children.
- To give the children for adoption who are capable of bringing them up.
- To work for the eradication of all caste, communal and provincial distinctions which hinder the development of healthy national life and thus to bring about the spirit of universal brotherhood among the people.

¹⁴⁸ Brochure, Gandhigram Trust, Gandhigram, n.d., p.1.

- To co-operate with other organizations doing constructive work in promoting cottage industry.
- To secure the co-operation of the Government and public.
- To do all such things as may be necessary for the furtherance of the above objects of the Trust, but shall not include activities for profit; the income shall be applied for charitable purposes in India.¹⁴⁹

Management

The affairs of Gandhigram Trust are managed by board of trustees consisting of Managing Trustee Dr.R.Kousalya Devi and assisted by the Secretary M.R.Rajagopalan and an Associate Secretary cum Treasurer K.Sivakumar supported by other staff. The number of members in the board of trustees shall not exceed 15 members. The board of Trustees shall meet as often as necessary but not later than three months from every such meeting.¹⁵⁰

Funds

The main sources of funds of the trust are Central and State Government Grants, surplus generated by its institutions and by way of Donations. The foreign agencies like Funds for Asia, (United States of America), Germany Friends Forum, (Germany) and Arguim Trust (France) are principal agencies donating funds for various welfare programmes of the trust.¹⁵¹

2. People Education for Action and Community Emancipation Trust (PEACE Trust)

People Education for Action and Community Emancipation (PEACE) Trust was established under Indian Trust Act, 1972 in 1984 at Dindigul.¹⁵² This

¹⁴⁹ *Trust Deed, Gandhigram Trust , op.cit.,* pp.4-6.

¹⁵⁰ Interview with Mr. M.R.Rajagopalan, Secretary, Gandhigram Trust, Gandhigram, on 5.8.2008.

¹⁵¹ Sixtieth Annual Report (2007), Gandhigram Trust, Gandhigram, 2007, p.20.

¹⁵² Brochure, PEACE Trust, Dindigul, 2005, p.1.

organisation plays a major role in highlighting and solving the problems caused by leather and cotton industries, rehabilitating the child labourers and empowering women. This Trust is also involved in environmental education for sustained development and intervening for the welfare and security of migrant workers.

The PEACE Sustainable Agriculture Centre was established in Thasaripatti in Vendasandur Block in 1998 to provide training to the farmers regarding sustainable agriculture.¹⁵³ The PEACE Industrial School was established in 2000 at Vittalnayakkanpatti near Dindigul to impart vocational training to rural youth.¹⁵⁴

The PEACE Trust has been highlighting the issues relating to Child labour, environment, migrant and women through the following publications:

- (i) From the South, a bimonthly news letter on labour and environment.
- (ii) ***Kadal Kadantha Thozhilali*** (Labourers in Overseas Countries).
- (iii) A Tamil Newsletter on Migrant workers.
- (iv) Voice of Labour
- (v) Migrant Newsletter
- (vi) Voice of Sustainable Ecosystem.

Pasumai, 90.4 FM Community Radio and ***Pasumai Ulagam*** Internet Radio were started by the Trust to disseminate the information related to social and environmental and sustainable agriculture.¹⁵⁵

The Trust office is located at Near Police Housing Colony, Trichy Road, Dindigul-624005.

¹⁵³ ***Annual Report,1999-2000, PEACE Trust***, Dindigul, 2000, p.32.

¹⁵⁴ J.Paul Baskar, ***Amaithi Arakkattalai*** (Tamil), (Peace Trust), PEACE Trust, Dindigul, 2005, p.6.

¹⁵⁵ ***Annual Report,1999-2000, PEACE Trust***, Dindigul, 2000, p.50

Mission

To create an environment free from exploitation through promoting equal opportunities for the vulnerable, marginalized and poor people and women for ensuring sustainable development.¹⁵⁶

Aims and Objectives

- To ensure livelihood options for the marginalised and poor through micro-credit, awareness on health and hygiene and natural resource management in drought prone areas by providing employment, helping migrant labourers and rehabilitating the land and resources.
- To protect the rights of the children against exploitations and abuses. Enhancing their learning through formal and alternate education and by ensuring a child friendly society.
- To empower women by forming Self Help Groups promoting micro-enterprises and equipping them with holistic knowledge on governance, immoral trafficking , HIV/AIDS, nutrition and health to usher in an integrated and wholesome development.
- To preserve the environment and to promote the sustainable development by educating the community on sensitizing the resource usage and recycling the available resources to meet the developmental needs.
- To make the people aware of pollution hazards and to prevent pollution through mass action.¹⁵⁷

PEACE Trust is a Member of

Global march against child labour & SAACS New Delhi.

Child workers in Asia – Thailand.

CARAM ASIA – Malaysia

¹⁵⁶ *Annual Report, 2007-2008, PEACE Trust*, Dindigul, 2008, p.4

¹⁵⁷ *Trust Deed*, PEACE Trust, Dindigul, 1984, p.6.

Fresh Water Action Network – UK
 United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC)
 Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority
 Regional Resource Agency for Ministry of Environment and Forest.¹⁵⁸

Management

The Trust is governed by Board of Trustees with four members. The Board functioning under the Chairmanship of J. Paul Baskar, a social activist dedicated to the cause of protection of child rights, elimination of child labour and protection of environment. The Secretary-cum-Treasurer is elected for one year by rotation. At present Mr. A. Mahaboob Batcha is working as the Secretary-cum-Treasurer. The board of Trustees meets regularly once in three months. The entire functions of the organisation are managed by the board of Trustees. The board of Trustees is assisted by a team of staff in implementing different project activities.¹⁵⁹

Funds

The Trust generate funds from various departments of Central and State Governments. It also generates funds from the donors of foreign agencies viz., Mani Tese, Italy; Karl Kubel Stiffing, Germany ; Indiska Magasinet, Sweden ; Terre des Homes, Germany ; The Body Shop International, United kingdom; Anti Slavery International, United Kingdom; German Technical Co-operation, Germany ;Forgotten Children, USA; American Center for International Labour Solidarity, Sri Lanka and Small Grant Programme of World Bank. It is also implementing the watershed programmes to conserve the soil and water with the funds of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁸ *Annual Report, 2006-2007, PEACE Trust, 2006-2007*, Dindigul, 2007, p.5.

¹⁵⁹ Interview with Mr.J.Paul Baskar, Chairman, PEACE Trust, Dindigul, on 31.07.2008

¹⁶⁰ Interview with Mr. A.Mahaboob Batcha, Secretary cum Treasurer, PEACE Trust, Dindigul, on 31.07.2008.

3. Rural Education and Action for Liberation (REAL)

Rural Education and Action for Liberation (REAL) was established under Societies Registration Act, 1975 on August 11, 1978.¹⁶¹ In 1977 the people of Vedasandur Block were affected by the floods caused due to the collapse of Kudaganaru Dam. All India Catholic Union Education (AICUF), a national level student organisation undertook emergency and relief work for the community. The team of students witnessed the need for continued involvement with the people of Vedasandur for their rehabilitation and development and they registered REAL in August 1978.¹⁶²

The REAL has been rendering services to the people for their wholesome development in Dindigul and Vedasandur Blocks by extending relief and rehabilitation, education and awareness building, motivating and organising, providing support for development by making the people aware of Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development.¹⁶³ The administrative office is located at M2/179, 12th Cross, R.M. Colony, Dindigul-624001.

Mission

To promote economic, environmental livelihood by facilitating people organisations to attain sustainable development.¹⁶⁴

Aims and Objectives

- To reduce discrimination of people based on gender, caste and community and to develop the marginalised people.
- To eradicate illiteracy of the people through formal and Non-formal education.

¹⁶¹ Interview with L.Peter, Executive Secretary, REAL, Dindigul, on 14.06.2008.

¹⁶² *Silver Jubilee Souvenir*, REAL, Dindigul, 2003, p.76.

¹⁶³ Interview with K.P.Subramani, Assistant Director, REAL, Dindigul on 14.6.2008.

¹⁶⁴ *Annual Report, REAL, 2005-2006*, Dindigul, 2006, p.2.

- To educate rural children by increasing the enrollment in primary schools.
- To give vocational training to marginalised people through entrepreneurship development programme to ensure sustained livelihood.
- To develop women by organising social action groups under *Kudagu Mahlir Iyakkam* and Self Help Groups among them.
- To extend health services to rural people.
- To impart the knowledge of sustainable agriculture to farmers.
- To impart the knowledge of cleanliness and sanitation among rural people.¹⁶⁵

Management

The activities of the organisation are being managed by the executive committee consisting of the Chair Person, B. Guna, Secretary, Sahaya Mary, Executive Secretary, L. Peter, Treasurer, Backiam and three other members. The executive committee is elected by the General body once in two years. The Executive Secretary L. Peter is fully responsible for generating funds, to design the developmental programmes and to make liaison with the government functionaries.¹⁶⁶

Funds

The organisation is mobilising funds from a number of welfare programmes of Central and State Government departments. It is also generating funds as donation from the international organisations viz., Trocaire of Ireland LEISA of Netherlands, Canadian Association for community living (CACL) of Canada, Plan International of Spain, European Commission for Humanitarian

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p.3.

¹⁶⁶ Interview with K.P.Subramani, Assistant Director, REAL, Dindigul, on 14.6.2008.

Aid Office (ECHO) of Luxemburg, Department of International Development(DID) of United Kingdom, Siemenpuu Foundation of Finland, Asia Partnership for Human Development of Australia, Water Aid Organisation of London, Katholische Frauenbewegung Oesterreichs (KFO) of Austria and CARIDAS of Netherlands.¹⁶⁷

4. The Dindigul Multipurpose Social Service Society (DMSSS)

The Dindigul Multipurpose Social Service Society was founded by Rev. Fr.A. Joseph Selvaraj in July 07,1986 as per the decree passed by His Excellency Rt. Rev. Thomas Fernando, the then Bishop of Tiruchirapalli Diocese.¹⁶⁸ It is a registered diocesan Social Service Society. The society is registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 on 21st July 1986.¹⁶⁹ The Registration No. is 60/1986. The society has been rendering services to develop women, youth, children, farmers and down trodden people. In 2003 Dindigul District raised to the level of Diocese and Rt. Rev. P. Antony Poppusamy is the first bishop of the Diocese. He is inducted as the member of DMSSS and elected as the President of the Governing body of DMSSS.¹⁷⁰ It is focusing on the social economic development of the poor people. The society is located at John Paul Complex, Nehruji Nagar, Dindigul-624001.

Objectives

- To develop the socio-economic condition of women in Dindigul District.
- To provide family counselling to reconcile the marital, premarital and ex-marital problem of the families.

¹⁶⁷ *Annual Report,2005-2006, REAL*, Dindigul, 2006, p.19.

¹⁶⁸ Interview with Fr. Joseph Xavier, Director cum Secretary, DMSSS, Dindigul, on 3.9.2008.

¹⁶⁹ *Idem.*

¹⁷⁰ *Tenth Anniversary Souvenir (1986-1996)*, DMSSS, Dindigul, July 1996, p.3.

- To provide spiritual life and to lift the poor people through social service.
- To impart vocational skills through training programmes to young girls and boys to have a better career.
- To extend relief and rehabilitation service to poor children, to orphan and physically handicapped people.
- To create the children as civilized and disciplined citizens and to bring efficiency and cleverness in the children.
- To give a livelihood for the aged people in Home meant for the aged.
- To assist the poor families and to enable them to achieve eventual self dependence.
- To develop the infrastructure for the sustained development of the people.¹⁷¹

Management

DMSSS is a registered Diocesan Social Service Society. DMSSS is being controlled by two committees viz., General body committee consisting of 13 numbers and the Governing body members committee consisting of 7 numbers under the president of Rt. Rev. P. Antony Poppusamy, the Bishop of Dindigul Diocese. Fr. V. Joseph Xavier is the Director cum Secretary of the Governing body committee.¹⁷²

Funds

The financial assistance from the Central Social Welfare Board of India, Ministry for Social Justice and empowerment of Government of India, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women and Social Welfare Department

¹⁷¹ *Annual Report 1987-88, DMSSS*, Dindigul, 1988, pp.4-5.

¹⁷² *Annual Report, 2007-2008, DMSSS*, Dindigul, 2008, p.1.

of Tamil Nadu are utilized for implementing the relevant welfare programmes. The donations from the agencies viz., Caritas, Sweden, Canadian International Development Agency(CIDA), Canada, Kolping , Germany, Indo-German Help for Children, Germany, Bridge Foundation, Chennai, Swedish International Development Agency(SIDA), Sweden and LACIM Association, France are used for conducting various developmental programmes.¹⁷³

5. St. Joseph's Development Trust

A group of likeminded persons under the headship of Brother I. Sebastian FSC, having behind fully realized spirit and faith, developed capacity with more commitment to plunge into the social service from the year 1974 and it was registered as St. Joseph's Development Trust in the year 1992. Its broad sense of approach and perception in the service sectors towards fulfilling human needs of social, economical, physical, psychological, spiritual and environmental aspects reflect the vision of St. John Baptist De La Salle who dreamt about the world a kind of domain where Equity, Fraternity, Justice and Peace should dwell.¹⁷⁴

The St. Joseph's Development Trust is registered under Indian Trusts Act, 1972, on April 2, 1992. The registration number is 22/1992.¹⁷⁵ In 1996 *Puduyugam* (New Era), a project was inaugurated in Dindigul to protect the street children. It ventured into the backward rural villages to enhance the living standards of the people. Special emphasis was given to the development of women, youth and children. The SJDT introduced health programmes, economic empowerment programmes and non-formal education programmes to develop the rural people. It has also been implementing programmes to empower the

¹⁷³ Interview with Fr. Joseph Xavier, Director Cum Secretary, DMSSS, Dindigul, on 3.9.2008.

¹⁷⁴ Profile of St. Joseph Development Trust, Ganguvarpatty, 2004, p.3.

¹⁷⁵ Interview with Brother I. Sebastian, Founder and Executive Director, St. Joseph's Development Trust, Ganguvarpatty, on 30.8.2008.

women.¹⁷⁶ The service of SJDT began like running orphanage for boys from the deprived communities and who lacked love and care of the parents. It has extended the services to Batlagundu, Nilakottai, Athoor and Dindigul Blocks with integrated community development approach.¹⁷⁷ The administrative office is located at Genguvarpatty, Periyakulam Taluk, Theni District.

Mission

In participation with the grassroot level people St. Joseph's development Trust seeks to serve the weaker sections of the society such as the women, children and youth irrespective of caste, creed or religion. The Trust offers them equal opportunities to develop their potentials towards self sustained life.¹⁷⁸

Objectives

- To improve social and economic conditions of the poor.
- To establish sustainable community.
- To enhance the living conditions of the people.
- To improve quality of education by supplementing through tuition centers.
- To make available the savings and credit services to the people.
- To link the rural poor to all developmental programmes of central and state Governments.
- To develop the children by various welfare activities.¹⁷⁹

¹⁷⁶ Profile of St. Joseph Development Trust, Genguvarpatty, 2004, p.3.

¹⁷⁷ Interview with Mr.C.Antony, Project Officer, SJDT, Genguvarpatty, on 30.8.2008.

¹⁷⁸ Brother I.Sebastian, "Enterprise Promotion Through Micro Credit - A Sustainable Development Intervention", Booklet, St. Joseph Development Trust, 2005, p.2.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, p.3.

Management

This trust is managed by the Board of Managing Trustees and the Chief Executive Director is Brother I. Sebastian. He manages all the activities in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the projects and maintaining the accounts with the assistance of staff in the respective departments. The other Trustees are Brother T. Amalan, Brother John Fernando and S. Joselin.¹⁸⁰

Funds

The trust is getting funds from the Central and State Governments for implementing the various welfare programmes. The funds are being received as donations for conducting various projects from the foreign agencies and organization viz., Rabo bank foundation, Netherlands, International Child Welfare Service, Denmark, Lasallian Foundation, Australia, Stichting, Netherlands, Ent wick lungs Life, Australia, Foreninger Enable, Denmark, Action Medeor, Germany, Enfants Del' Universe, France, Secours Catholique-Caritas, France, France D'Esperance, France, Kindernodilife E.V. Germany, Karl Kubel Stiftung, Germany, Association of Thrangambadi, France and Lee Foundation, Singapore.¹⁸¹

6. Rural Education for Action and Development Agency (READ)

Rural Education for Action and Development (READ) Agency has been established with an ultimate objective of bringing in equitable socially justified society that lives in peace and prosperity in an environment of sustainable development. It is concerned with the education, rehabilitation and empowerment of women, bonded labourers, sex workers, disabled people, tribal

¹⁸⁰ Interview with Mr.S.Joselin, Trustee, St. Joseph, Development Trust, Genguvarpatty, on 2.9.2008.

¹⁸¹ Interview with Brother I.Sebastian, Founder and Executive Director, St. Joseph's Development Trust, on 30.8.2008.

people, child labourers, youth and other weaker sections of the society. The READ Agency has its deep roots of foundation dating back to pre-independence period. In 1937 a group of socially conscious and philanthropical minded individuals formed an informal unit in pursuit of educational promotion for the underprivileged and marginalised sections of the rural and tribal poor of the erstwhile Madurai Province. They were attracted by Gandhi's speech in 1935 at Dindigul "Who are working in the rural area are the real service rendering sector in the society". In 1937 they started Shri Narasimman Middle School at V.Mettupatty, near Dindigul. The READ Agency is the progeny of this great movement and it had been rendering services to the society in Dindigul District.¹⁸²

Later it developed as an organisation with strength and legal entitles in the year 1991. It was registered on October 29, 1991 under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. The Registration Number is 109/91.¹⁸³ The trust is located at 47, MRF Nagar, Natham road, Nallampatty II cross, Dindigul – 624 003.

Mission

To liberate and uplift the oppressed and exploited sections of the society and give them a feeding of self esteem and well being through awareness campaigns, counselling sessions, educational programmes, organisational structures, lobbying with the higher ups.¹⁸⁴

Objectives

- Empowering the communities through awareness campaigns, theatre programmes, formal and non-formal education, training programmes and organisational enlightenment.

¹⁸² Interview with Mr.A.Rajasimman, Secretary, READ Agency, Dindigul, on 1.10.2008.

¹⁸³ Organisation Profile, READ Agency, Dindigul, n.d., p.2.

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p.2.

- Enabling the weaker sections of the society especially women and tribal people, to raise their standard of living through income generation activities and become self reliant socially and economically.
- To take up economic and sustainable development programmes for the unemployed and under employed youth and women of the society.
- To conduct training programmes for rural and urban youth on personality development, patriotism and international understanding.
- To promote primary and higher education in villages where literacy is very low.
- To implement programmes to prevent and control HIV / AIDS in venerable sectors and to make the general public aware of the modes of transmission and methods of control of AIDS / HIV.
- To run short stay homes for women in distress.
- To liberate people from bonded labour and debt trap.
- To propagate sustainable agricultural practices without endangering the environment like bio-fencing, bio-fertilizer production, bio-pesticide production, watershed management and organic farming .
- To organise women, youth and tribal people to form self-reliant Self Help Groups for social and economic uplift.¹⁸⁵

Management

The functioning of the organisation is being managed by the executive committee consisting of the president Mr. J.Antony Savariar, the Secretary

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, pp.4-5.

Mr.A.Rajasimman, the Treasurer Mr. R. Ramadoss and four Executive members. They are elected by the general body for three years. The Secretary is vested with the entire responsibilities of the functioning of the organisation with the guidance of the executive committee. The executive committee meets once in three months and the general body meets once in a year.¹⁸⁶

Funds

The READ Agency is implementing various developmental programmes with the financial assistance of the Ministries of Agriculture, Women and Child Welfare, Tribal Welfare and Rural Development of the Central Government and the Departments of Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Education. The Tamil Nadu State Aids Control Society (TANSACS) of the State Government. Some of the major programmes are financed by foreign agencies such as Trocaire, Ireland and Cordi, Netherlands. Some programmes are implemented through the generous donations of Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health, Corporation Bank, State Bank of India and individuals.¹⁸⁷

7. Council for Health, Education and Rural Upliftment (CHERU)

Council for Health, Education and Rural Upliftment (CHERU) has been founded as the community participatory organisation to develop as self reliant and self sustained communities, on June 2,1987 and it was registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. CHERU has been implementing various programmes with commitment and devotion to develop the socio economic and cultural development of the people of rural areas in Vedasandur

¹⁸⁶ Interview with Mr.Antony Xavier, President, READ Agency, Dindigul, on 3.10.2008.

¹⁸⁷ Interview with Mr. R.Ramdoss, Treasurer, READ Agency, Dindigul on 2.10.2008

Taluk.¹⁸⁸ The administrative office is located at Vellabommanpatti of Vadamadurai Block, Vendasandur Taluk – 624 802.

Mission

Creation of participative and responsive community health system, health service delivery system, credit delivery system, basic amenities delivery system, good local self governance and alleviation of poverty through active participation and contribution of peoples forum by the implementation of various socio-economic, cultural, environmental and human resource development programmes.¹⁸⁹

Aims and Objectives

- To Create Opportunities for accessing and mobilising various financial resources and collective financial capital for the development of women and poor people.
- To increase income earning capacity and reduce debt burden and other economic issues through the implementation of micro-credit and micro enterprises programme.
- To facilitate people to receive health care services from all available sources on low cost and active participation of people in community based and owned health systems.
- To promote various types of watershed development programmes for poverty reduction and protection and promotion of environmental equilibrium.
- To organise and facilitate relevant people’s forums, federations and movements. To participate in development and rights assertion process and to continue the same on their own in long run.

¹⁸⁸ Interview with Mr.E.Vellaichamy, Secretary, CHERU, Vellabommanpattai, on 14.06.2008.

¹⁸⁹ Profile of CHERU, Vellabommanpatti, p.1.

- To educate and generate awareness among people through group, community and mass based educative and communicative programmes and processes.
- To facilitate various stakeholders and people for the availability of basic amenities and infrastructure to rural and urban poor communities.
- To facilitate the availability of need based veterinary health services to cattle and poultry of poor people in rural and urban areas.¹⁹⁰

Management

The activities regarding to the administration of staff, financial allocation and reviewing the programmes implemented are managed by the executive committee consisting of seven members viz., the President A. Ramakrishanan, Secretary Mr. E. Vellaichamy and the Treasurer P. Narayanan and other four members. The executive committee is elected by the General body which has 14 members. The executive committee meet ones in three months to review and evaluate the progress of the programmes. The General body meet atleast once a year to discuss the activities of the organisation and to evolve the future plans.¹⁹¹

Funds

The programmes are being implemented with the financial assistance of CAPART, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Youth affairs and sports, Central Social Welfare Board of Government of India. The financial assistance from the State Government Departments viz., Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, District Rural Development Agency and Tamil Nadu Wasteland Development Agency

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp.1-2.

¹⁹¹ Interview with Mr.E.Vellaichamy, Secretary, CHERU, on 14.6.2008.

(TAWDEVA) are also utilised for conducting various programmes. The donations from foreign agencies viz., KKS, Germany, Terre Des Homes (TDH), Germany, Irish Aid, Ireland and Humanis, France are also utilised for implementing various programmes.¹⁹²

8. Centre for Education and Development Alternative Trust (CEDA)

Centre for Education and Development Alternative Trust (CEDA) was established on December 16, 1992 and registered under Indian Trust Act, 1882. The Registration number is 177/1992. It has been extending the welfare activities since then. It has been engaged in the emancipation and development of the marginalised people through campaigning, organizing, educating, assisting and networking.¹⁹³ The administrative office is located at 98-A, Co-Operative Nagar, Dindigul-624005.

Mission

To organise and mobilise the weaker, downtrodden and disabled sections of the society to empower them to resort to collective action to find solutions to their problems and to march towards the formation of a developed egalitarian society.¹⁹⁴

Objectives

- To organise women against domestic violence and gender discrimination and assisting them to achieve economic self reliance.
- To conduct awareness campaigns against infant mortality, female infanticide, child labour and child right violations.

¹⁹² Interview with Mr.E.Narayanan, Treasurer, CHERU, on 15.06.2008.

¹⁹³ Interview with Mr.L.Antonymsamy, Managing Trustee, CEDA Trust, Dindigul, on 13.8.2008.

¹⁹⁴ *Trust Deed*, CEDA Trust, Dindigul, 1992, p.3.

- To render health service to people.
- To engage in interventional and educative programmes for environmental protection .
- To impart education and training on sustainable agriculture and natural farming methods.¹⁹⁵

Management

The Trust is being managed by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees consists of the Director Mrs. A. Bakiam and the Managing Trustee L. Antonysamy and five other executive members. The managing Trustee is responsible for conducting all the activities like planning, coordinating, implementing programmes and managing the project financing.¹⁹⁶

Funds

The Trust is getting funds from the various welfare programmes of the Central and State Government departments. The donations from the foreign organisations viz., CORDAID, Netherlands, Simenpuu Foundation, Finland CARITAS, Sweden, LEISA, Netherlands and Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL), Canada.¹⁹⁷

9. Rural Welfare Organisation (RWO)

A group of young social workers had an idea to form a registered voluntary association when they served in different organisations, from where they gathered experience since 1985. This resulted in the establishment of Rural Welfare Organisation (RWO) in 1989. It works towards the welfare of the rural depressed women, children, old aged and community development. It was registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975, on 26th

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp.3-5.

¹⁹⁶ Interview with Mr.A.Backiam, Director, CEDA Trust, Dindigul on 29.8.2008.

¹⁹⁷ *Annual Report, 2006-2007, CEDA Trust*, Dindigul, 2007, p.9.

September 1989.¹⁹⁸ The registration number is 118/89. The administrative office is located at 3/20, Sundarapuri, Nallamanarkottai (Post) Vedasandur (Taluk).

Mission

To bring a comprehensive transformation in the lives of target community in a sustainable manner and ensure their healthy and prosperous future.¹⁹⁹

Aims and Objectives

RWO has been working to bring domestic progress with international standards in development by the following objectives:

- To form the people's association to create community efforts to solve the local problems.
- To conduct functional literacy and health education classes to the downtrodden people.
- To train and guide through programmes on income generation schemes for women and youth.
- To establish libraries, reading rooms, recreation facilities in the villages.
- To train the farmers in modern agricultural techniques and encourage for subsidiary occupations like dairy, poultry, animal husbandry and cottage industries.
- To provide relief to the needy of the areas affected by natural calamities and other emergencies.
- To promote women and child development programmes in rural areas.
- To bring more lands under cultivation through social forestry and waste land development programmes.²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁸ *Annual Report, 1991-1992, RWO*, Sundarapuri, 1992, p.1.

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, p.2.

Management

The organizational, promotional and financial management of the organization is vested with the managing committee consisting of the President S.R. Jeya, Vice-President M. German Margarat, Executive Secretary S. Santhi Treasurer R. Saroja and three other executive members. V. Rajendran is working as a Programme Director of the organisation. The tenure of the managing committee is three years. The executive committee meets once in three months to discuss and evaluate the programmes. The Executive Secretary and Programme Director are controlling and supervising the programmes.²⁰¹

Funds

RWO is generating funds from the Ministry of Social Justice Empowerment and Central Social Welfare Board of the Central Government and Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women and Dindigul District Rural Development Agency. Some of the major programmes are financed by the foreign agencies such as Elton John AIDS Foundation, United Kingdom, Feed the Minds, United Kingdom and AVERT, United Kingdom.²⁰²

10. Christian Fellowship and Community Health Centre (CFCHC) and Christian Education Health and Development Society (CEHDS)

Christian Fellowship and Community Health Centre (CFCHC) and Christian Education Health and Development Society (CEHDS) was established by Dr. Jacob Cherian in 1965 at Ambilikai near Oddanchatram. It is being run by a registered charitable society. It has been rendering services in the sphere of health to the people in the CFCHC hospital and with specialists high quality

²⁰⁰ Profile of RWO, Sundarapuri, 1993, pp.2-3.

²⁰¹ Interview with Ms.S.Santhi, Executive Secretary, RWO, Sundarapuri on 21.8.2008.

²⁰² Interview with Ms.R.Saroja, Treasurer, RWO, Sundarapuri, on 22.08.2008.

medical care is given to the people. The charitable Trust is registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 in 1973.²⁰³

A Leprosy hospital was inaugurated in the year 1967 and Community Health Development Training and Research Institute was started in 1971. A Cancer centre was started in 1974 to provide quality service to the people with cancer.²⁰⁴

Christian Matriculation Higher Secondary School in 1970 at Oddanchatram and Shanthinicketan Higher Secondary School in 1972 at Ambilikai were established to provide educational facilities to the people. The Christian Polytechnic College in 1984 and the Christian Industrial Training Institute in 1992 were established at Oddanchatram. The Christian Medical Post Graduate Institute in 1986 and Christian Research and Training for Health and the Christian College of Nursing in 1987 at Ambilikai were established. Rev. Jacob Memorial Christian College of Arts and Science was established in 1997 at Ambilikai. Christian College of Engineering and Technology was established in 2001 at Oddanchatram to render technical educational service to the people.²⁰⁵ The administrative office of the organisation is located at Santhipuram, Ambilikai Post, Oddanchatram Taluk – 624 612.

Mission

The mission of CFCHC is to serve the rural poor and the sick irrespective of caste, colour or creed in the spirit of Jesus Christ and to improve the quality and life style of the oppressed and suppressed people in the area by all possible ways hoping to achieve total development of the place so that poverty and ignorance will be wiped out.²⁰⁶

²⁰³ Interview with Dr.Mary Cherian, Co-founder and Director, CFCHC, Ambilikai, on 18.09.2008.

²⁰⁴ “The Story of Ambilikai”, VOICE, *The Journal of the EMFI*, December 1989, p.36.

²⁰⁵ Brochure, CFCHC & CEHDC, Ambilikai, n.d., pp.1-6.

²⁰⁶ Organisation Profile of CFCHC & CEHDS, Ambilikai, pp.2-3.

Aims and Objectives

- To render medical and health services to the poor people in the area.
- To improve the quality and life style of the oppressed and suppressed people in the area by all possible ways.
- To wipe out poverty and ignorance
- To provide value based education to enable one to develop the innate potentialities.
- To provide medical services to the community at reasonable cost.
- To impart technical education to the rural people at reasonable cost
- To provide leprosy cure services in the area.²⁰⁷

Management

The general body at present comprises of 16 members and it meets once in a year to review the activities of the organization. The general body elects the members of the Executive Committee which consists of the President Dr.Selvin Ebenezer, the Secretary Mr. Vinod Mamman, the Treasurer Mrs. Meema Cherian, the Director Dr. Mary Cherian and the member Dr.Esmy (The Medical Superintendent of the Organization). The Executive Committee meets every month to evolve the strategies and to plan the future activities. The co-founder cum Executive Director Dr. Mary Cherian is vested with the responsibilities of implementing and evaluating the programmes.²⁰⁸

Funds

This organisation is receiving a grant from the Central Government for cancer treatment. The foreign Agencies such as American Leprosy Mission, (U.S.A.) and E.Z.E.C.B.M., (Germany) provide financial backing for Leprosy

²⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, pp.3-4.

²⁰⁸ Interview with Mr.Vinod Mamman, Secretary, CFCHC, Ambilikai, on 19.09.2008.

and Cancer programmes. It receives donations from volunteers and donors. Among them Mr.R.Venkatraman, a Philonthropist donated Rs.5,00,000/- for Cancer treatment.²⁰⁹

11. Social Awareness and Development Organisation for

Women (SAADOW)

Social Awareness and Development Organisation for Women (SAADOW) formed by fifteen rural women members, to fulfill their local community needs in 1990. This society is primarily serving for the development of women, children, aged, handicapped and farmers. It has been promoting the cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants. The society was registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975, on 4th September 1990. The registration number is 158/90.²¹⁰ The Administrative Office of the organization is located at 119-D/6B, Behind Central Theatre, Natham – 624 401.

Mission

To ensure the development of women, children by community integrated approach.²¹¹

Aims and Objectives

- To concentrate on the development of children through educational programmes.
- To provide a livelihood to the aged people.
- To promote natural farming and sustainable agricultural activities.
- To develop the women through organizing and strengthening the women Self Help Groups

²⁰⁹ “The Story of Ambilikai”, *op.cit.*, p.37.

²¹⁰ Organisation Profile of SAADOW, Natham, n.d., p.2.

²¹¹ *Idem.*

- To improve the social, economic, cultural and political status of women
- To conduct awareness campaigns on cancer, AIDS, road safety, and sanitation.
- To extend health services to the poor people.
- To impart vocational skill training to the rural youth to promote the self employment.²¹²

Management

The Executive Director, Mr. P. Sonaimuthu is vested with the responsibilities of implementing and evaluating the programmes and allocating funds to the programmes. The General body at present comprises of fifteen members and it meets once in a year to review the activities of the organization. The General body elects the members of the Executive Committee which consists of the President S. Regina Mary, the Secretary S. Saraswathy and the Executive Director P. Sonaimuthu, Treasurer, S. Palaniammal and other three Executive members. The Executive committee meets once in two months to evolve the strategies and to plan the future activities.²¹³

Funds

The Social Welfare Department of the State Government, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, National Minorities Development Corporation and National Crèche Fund (NCF) of the Central Government are extending financial assistance to the organization. Some of the programmes are financed by Foreign agencies such as AIDUSA, USA and Right Sharing of World Resources, USA.²¹⁴

²¹² *Fifteenth Annual Report (2005-2006), SAADOW*, Natham, 2006, p.3.

²¹³ Interview with Mr.P.Sonaimuthu, Executive Director, SAADOW, on 4.10.2008.

²¹⁴ Interview with Ms.S.Palaniammal, Treasurer, SAADOW, on 5.10.2008.

12. World Vision India

World Vision was established by Robert (Bob) Pierce in 1947. Robert (Bob) Pierce was a war correspondent in the Korean War in 1947. On seeing the victims of war Bob realized that the incredibly vulnerable victims especially children needed to be cared for. Hence he established World Vision organization in China in 1947.²¹⁵ World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization working to create lasting change in the lives of children, families and communities living in poverty and injustice. Presently this organization works in 97 countries and it is a leader in transformational development of the poor.²¹⁶ It serves all the people regardless of religion, caste, race, community or gender. In India the World Vision organization began its service in 1962 in a small way in Calcutta. Presently in India more than 1700 staff work to serve over 5000 communities and caring the lives of 2,25,000 children, their families and communities. It has been serving more than 50 years in India in over 200 districts throughout the country.²¹⁷ In Tamil Nadu it covers 17 districts.

In Dindigul District, Area Development Programme of Palani was started by World Vision India in 1996 funded by World Vision, Japan. This programme is being implemented in the villages of Oddanchatram, Palani, Kodaikanal and Vedasandur Blocks. It aims for the community-based sustainable development within the stipulated period of fifteen years.²¹⁸ The administrative office is located at 121/B-3, Kongu Nagar, Oddanchatram-624619.

²¹⁵ *The Story of World Vision* - Booklet, World Vision India, Chennai, 2008, p.2.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p.4.

²¹⁷ *Idem.*

²¹⁸ Interview with Mr. Finny Varghese, Programme Officer, World Vision, Palani Area Development Programme, Oddanchatram, on 27.8.2008.

Mission

World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the good news of the kingdom of God.²¹⁹

Objectives

- To help the poor and needy to achieve self reliance.
- To help destitute, needy and orphan children without discrimination of race, caste or creed.
- To assist in the development of spiritual life and leadership.
- To carry out charitable development and relief work in cooperation with the Government and other agencies.
- To bring the sustainable development to the community.
- To enhance the quality of education of school children and to reduce the school dropouts.
- To provide health services and to improve sanitation practices through various programmes.²²⁰

Management

The Area Development Programme (ADP), Palani of World Vision India is managed by the Programme Manager Finny Varghese and is being supervised by the Project Manager of Chennai. The Programme Manager of ADP, Palani is being supported by the finance officer and twelve co-ordinators.²²¹

²¹⁹ Organisation Profile of World Vision, Oddanchatram, n.d., p.2.

²²⁰ *Ibid.*, pp.3-4.

²²¹ Interview with Mr.Finny Varghese, Programme Officer, World Vision, Oddanchatram, on 27.8.2008

Funds

The World Vision, Japan is the funding agency for the Palani Area Development Programme. It is also receiving funds for its developmental works from the Central and State Government Departments through various welfare schemes.²²²

13. Christian Fellowship Hospital (CFH)

Christian Fellowship Hospital (CFH) was established in 1955, at Oddanchatram by Dr. A.K. Tharian. In 1948, a few students of the Miraj Medical School in Maharashtra met regularly for weekly fellowship and whose attention was specifically drawn to the drought-stricken area around Oddanchatram in Tamil Nadu. In 1955, a team consisting of Dr.A.K.Tharien, a nurse and a pharmacy assistant with very limited funds, drugs and supplies ventured to Oddanchatram.²²³ They started to render health services to the poor people in and around Oddanchatram. One night an emergency caesarean section was done to save the life of a mother and her baby with a few available instruments in the kitchen, and this marked a turning point for the small clinic as more patients came to the clinic. This small clinic expanded slowly to the present hospital with a capacity of 288 beds. The hospital is registered as a charitable society under Societies Registration Act of 1860. The hospital is located at Palani Road, Oddanchatram, Dindigul District-624619.²²⁴

²²² *Idem.*

²²³ Thomas Selmes, "A Report of an Elective in the Christian Fellowship, Hospital, Oddanchatram, South India", *Health Serve*, Issue 11, Leicester University, October, 2003, p.35.

²²⁴ Interview with Dr. Paul Emmanuel, Medical Superintendent, CFH, Oddanchatram, on 20.8.2008.

Mission

The mission of the hospital is to render high quality medical services at lower cost to patients seeking the same without reference to religion, caste or creed.²²⁵

Aims and Objectives

- To provide ethical, holistic and cost effective primary and secondary level medical care irrespective of caste and religion with a focus on the marginatised.
- To nurture the staff and trainees in true Christian living and train them in various aspects of medical work so that they may also reach out to the unreached.
- To continue as a self supporting body looking to god in faith.²²⁶

Management

The Christian Fellowship Hospital (CFH) is run by the Christian Fellowship, an international body based on the faith in Jesus Christ and is registered as a charitable society. The members of Christian fellowship have a lifetime commitment. The office bearers are elected by the members to carry out the various responsibilities.²²⁷

Funds

The CFH is implementing all the programmes with the indigenous funds and no funds are collected from any organizations. The HIV and AIDS control programme is the only programme implemented with the funds of Tamil Nadu State Aids Control Society (TNSACS).²²⁸

²²⁵ Brochure, Christian Fellowship Hospital, n.d., p.1.

²²⁶ *Ibid.*, p.2.

²²⁷ Interview with Dr. Kuruvilla Varkey, Chairperson, CFH, Oddanchatram, on 16.8.2008.

²²⁸ Interview with Dr.Paul Emmanuel, Medical Superintendent, CFH, Oddanchatram, on 20.8.2008.

14. Centre for Improved Rural Health and Environmental Protection (CIRHEP)

Centre for Improved Rural Health and Environmental Protection(CIRHEP) is established in 1994. It is working in 32 villages around the foothills of Kadavakurichi Reserve Forest in Nilakuttai Taluk.²²⁹ The CIRHEP is working with different projects to support the rural sustainable development. It promotes environmental protection with community participation. It promotes organic farming, integrated agriculture, watershed development and women empowerment. The CIRHEP is conducting diversified programmes to develop children, youth, women and farmers.²³⁰ The organization is registered as a society under Societies Registration Act,1975 in 1994. The registration number is 106/1994. The administrative office is located at 12-1-1A/11,SAM complex, Nilakottai Post, Dindigul District -624208.

Mission

To create sustainable human ecology relationship and improve the quality of rural life by striving to alleviate poverty, provide education and conserve the environment with active participation of the rural community.²³¹

Objectives

- To conserve the environment through community action.
- To increase the awareness of children on environment through Natural school.
- To promote Integrated Farming System to develop the economic position of farmers
- To develop and empower the women through organising women Self Help Groups and strengthening the groups.

²²⁹ Interview with Mr.K.A.Chandra, President, CIRHEP, on 12.8.2008.

²³⁰ Interview with Mr.P.M.Mohan, Secretary, CIRHEP, on 12.8.2008.

²³¹ *Annual Report, 2006-2007, CIRHEP*, Nilakottai, p.2.

- To conserve soil and water through Watershed Development and Management.
- To prevent migration of population by training and motivating them to start income generating activities.²³²

Management

The functioning of the organisation is being managed by the executive committee consisting of the President K.A. Chandra, the Secretary P.M. Mohan and the Treasurer M. Karupaiah and seven executive members. The executive committee meets once in three months and is selected by the general body. The secretary is vested with the responsibilities of conducting and reviewing the programmes and to liaison with the other agencies and Government under the guidance of executive committee. The General Body meets once in an year.²³³

Funds

It is implementing various developmental programmes with the financial assistance of Tamil Nadu Wasteland Development Agency (TAWDEVA), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women. It is also getting financial assistance from the foreign agency Future Earth, Sweden.²³⁴

15. Centre for Human And Natural Resources Development (CHANARD)

Centre for Human And Natural Resources Development (CHANARD) was started in 1994 and Registered in October 23, 1996 under TamilNadu Societies Registration Act,1975. The Registration number is 101/1996.²³⁵ The organisation works scientifically based on the ground realities and experiences

²³² *Ibid.*, pp.3-4.

²³³ Interview with Mr.K.A.Chandra, *op.cit.*, on 12.8.2008.

²³⁴ Brochure, CIRHEP, n.d., p.6.

²³⁵ Organisations Profile, CHANARD, Batlagundu, 2008, p.2.

gained and serves to inspire changes in knowledge, attitude and practice among the underdeveloped sections of the community. It believes in people's ability to respond to their own situations by sensitising on their needs and existing resources to fulfill their needs through collective efforts.²³⁶ The administrative office is located at 92-B, State Bank Colony, Batlagundu, Nilakottai Taluk-624202.

Mission

To make real of Gandhian dream on sustainable, self-sufficient and self-reliant rural; To identify the human potential and promote human resources among the weaker sections and to strengthen the socio-economic, cultural and natural base and to promote quality of life among the weaker sections.²³⁷

Objectives

- To strive towards socio-economic development of the poor and downtrodden rural people.
- To empower women by forming Self Help Groups promoting micro- enterprises and equipping them with holistic knowledge on governance, HIV/AIDS, nutrition and health and to usher in an integrated and wholesome development.
- To preserve the environment and to promote sustainable development by educating the community on sensitizing the resource usage and recycling the available resources to meet the developmental needs.
- To promote sustainable utilisation of natural resources.
- To impart capacity building and perspective trainings to rural youth for creating employment opportunities.

²³⁶ Interview with Mr.P.Krishnamoorthy, Secretary, CHANARD, Batlagundu, on 15.6.2008.

²³⁷ *Annual Report, 2003-2004, CHANARD*, Batlagundu, 2004, p.3.

- To promote innovative rural technology implementation.
- To create awareness on social issues and evils.²³⁸

Management

The organisation is managed by the executive committee consisting of seven members with the President A. Glory Sophi Puspham, Secretary P.Krishnamoorthy and Treasurer D. Uma Maheswari and four other executive committee members. The executive committee meets once in two months to decide on the activities of the organisation and to allocate finance to the various programmes being implemented. The members of the executive committee are selected by the General body which consists of 15 members. The General body meet atleast once in an year to review the activities of the organisation.²³⁹

Funds

It is getting funds from the various Central and State Government departments through various welfare schemes viz., Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, National Watershed Development Programme, Tamil Nadu Afforestation Programme, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women and Tamil Nadu State Aids Control Society. It is generating funds from the donor agencies viz., Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USA., AIDS Prevention and Control, USA, Rashtrria Mahila Kosh, New Delhi, Voluntary Health Services, Chennai and CRPA Foundation, Chennai.²⁴⁰

16. Rural Education and Development Association (REDA)

Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) was founded in 1988 by a team of committed and eminent social workers. This organisation has been extending services to the people in the areas of Health, Education,

²³⁸ *Ibid.*, pp.3-4.

²³⁹ Interview with Mr.P.Krishnamoorthy, Secretary, CHANARD, Batlagundu, on 5.6.2008.

²⁴⁰ Interview with Mr.D.Uma Maheswari, Treasurer, CHANARD, Batlagundu, on 2.8.2008.

Environment, Economic development, Rural sanitation. The women development in rural areas is facilitated by organising Self Help Groups and by giving entrepreneurship training to the members of these groups to encourage them to set up micro enterprises. It is Registered in 1988 under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.²⁴¹ The Registration number is 8/1988. The Administrative Office of the organization is located 21, Thiruvalluvar Mainroad, Shanmugapuram, Palani – 624 601.

Mission

The mission of the organisation is to bring the sustainable development among the target community.²⁴²

Objectives

- To create critical awareness among target groups in all aspects like Socio-economic, Political, Environment, Health and Education.
- To promote casteless, classless and creedless society.
- To promote economical stability of the society and political determination
- To promote mother and child care through women and children development programmes.²⁴³

Management

The functions of the organisation are being managed by the executive committee with the President R. Shanmugavel, Secretary S. Chandrasekarn, Treasurer S. Jothimani and six other executive members. The executive committee is elected by the General body. The executive committee meets once in three months to discuss and evaluate the programmes and financial allocations.

²⁴¹ Organisation Profile of REDA, Palani, n.d., p.1.

²⁴² Memorandum of Association of REDA, Palani, 1.4.2008, p.1.

²⁴³ *Ibid.*, pp.1-2.

The General body meet once in year. The Executive committee control and directly supervise all the activities and do the necessary for effective implementation of the programmes under the guidance of executive committee.²⁴⁴

Funds

The REDA is generating funds from the department of Central and State Governments viz., CAPART, Department of Science and Technology, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women and District Rural Development Agency. It is also generating funds from the foreign agencies as donations for implementing various programmes viz., SLF, Holland, Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL), Canada and LEISA, Netherlands.²⁴⁵

17. Mother Saradadevi Social Service Society (MSSSS)

Mother Saradadevi Social Service Society was established in 1988 and has been working towards promoting sustainable health and well being of the people in need. It focuses mainly on health with supportive interventions in economic and social areas through facilitation rather than direct intervention and through comprehensive and community based interventions.²⁴⁶ Its health initiatives began on a small scale in 1993 with external funding focusing on AIDS prevention and a care programme. It later expanded its activities by giving integrated care for People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). It also addressed to their other immediate community needs like economic and social needs. MSSSS networks with various NGOs and Government with a strong belief in convergence of efforts rather than duplication. It is registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 in 1988.²⁴⁷ The registration number is 27/1988.

²⁴⁴ Organisation Profile of REDA, Palani, n.d., p.1.

²⁴⁵ Interview with Mr.S.Chandrasekaran, Secretary, REDA, Palani on 27.8.2008.

²⁴⁶ Brochure, MSSSS, Oddanchatram, n.d., n.p.

²⁴⁷ Organisation Profile, MSSSS, Oddanchatram, p.3.

The administrative office is located at 115, Gandhi Nagar, Oddanchatram-624619.

Mission

The mission of the organisation is to promote sustainable health and well being of the people.²⁴⁸

Objectives

- To attain the sustainable health development in the targeted area.
- To improve the income of poor households so that they can support and contribute to improve their families health especially their children.
- To empower women by self help, micro credit and micro enterprises.
- To develop the children of sex workers, children of PLWHAs through community based care and support.
- To study and find the innovative intervention models in sexual and reproductive health of youth.
- To prevent the transmission of HIV from mother to child.
- To reduce the incidence of STI/HIV/AIDS among truckers and their sexual partners.²⁴⁹

Management

The functions of the society are being managed by the Executive Committee with the President V. Monica, Secretary cum Terasurer M. Prasanna, the Programme Manager Dr. S.V. Raja and the other executive members. The Executive committee consists of 7 members and is elected by the General body. The executive committee meets once in two months to discuss and evaluate the

²⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, p.4.

²⁴⁹ *Annual Report, 2006-2007, MSSSS, Oddanchatram, 2007, p.3.*

programmes and financial allocations. The General body meets once a year. The Secretary and the Programme Manager control and supervise all activities.²⁵⁰

Funds

The organisation implement the developmental programmes with the assistance of State Government Departments viz., Tamil Nadu AIDS Control Society and Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women. It is getting donations from the foreign agencies viz., European Commission, United Kingdom, Catholic Central Agency for Developmental Aid (KZE), Misereor, Germany, GIVE Foundation, USA and UNICEF.²⁵¹

18. Rural Integrated Development Organisation (RIDO)

Rural Integrated Development Organisation (RIDO) was established on January 4, 1995 under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. The Registration number is 79/1995. This organization is working with grass root level for the development of the poor, women, children and vulnerable people in the rural areas of Natham Block. Since the establishment of the organisation, the developmental efforts addressed issues that lead to the strengthening community competitiveness through capacity building, controlling the spread of diseases especially HIV / AIDS and creating access to health care providers.²⁵² Its administrative office is located at 41-B, North New Street, Meenakshipuram, Natham - 624 401.

Mission

The mission of the organisation is to promote holistic and sustainable development of people in rural areas.²⁵³

²⁵⁰ Interview with S.V.Raja, Programme Manager, DMSSS, Oddanchatram, on 20.8.2008.

²⁵¹ Interview with Mr. M.Prasanna, Secretary cum Treasurer, DMSSS, Oddanchatram, on 21.8.2008.

²⁵² Organisation Profile of RIDO, Natham, n.d., p.1.

²⁵³ *Ibid.*, p.2.

Objectives

- To develop the women by organising Self Help Groups and strengthening the groups.
- To train the rural poor and women on vocational skills and facilitating them to set up micro enterprises.
- To make people aware on environment and conservation of resources.
- To enhance the access of the rural people to health care facilities.
- To educate the children through various programmes.
- To make the people aware on consumer rights.²⁵⁴

Management

The activities related to the implementation of the programmes, finance, managing the staff are being controlled by the executive committee, consisting of seven members viz., the President A.Erskin, the Secretary S.Leslie and the Treasure P.Sophia and four Executive committee members. The executive committee meets once in three months to review and evaluate the projects and to decide the future plan of action. They are elected from the General body which is consisting of 9 members.²⁵⁵

Funds

The programmes of the organisation are being implemented with the assistance of Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, Tamil Nadu Comprehensive Wasteland Development Programme and Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India. The donations and grants in aid are received from the organisations viz., C.P. Ramasamy Iyyer Foundation, Chennai, Mother Saradadevi Social Service Society (MSSSS), Oddanchatram.

²⁵⁴ Interview with Mrs.S.Leslie, Secretary, RIDO, Natham, on 28.06.2008.

²⁵⁵ *Idem.*

Vidyarambam, Chennai and Ebenezer Home for Social Outreaches, Chennai for implementing various welfare programmes. Some programmes are funded by the foreign agency LIFE, Japan.²⁵⁶

19. Centre for Rural Education Research and Development Association (CENTREREDA)

Centre for Rural Education Research and Development Association(CENTREREDA) is one of the registered voluntary organisation working for the betterment of women and children in Nilakottai Block of Dindigul District. Initially it was working as small service centre providing relief and welfare support works. CENTREREDA developed from this initiative and was registered in 1986 under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. The registration number is 59/86.²⁵⁷ It is working under the leadership of S. Chinnan who is the founder of the organisation.

Its function is based on the social philosophy of Paul Frier²⁵⁸ and Gandhian ideology of Gram Swaraj and local Self-Governance. The major areas of work are women development, alternative education to rural people, rehabilitation of child labour, sustainable environment development, motivating people to setup income generation activities and facilitating micro credit among women Self Help Groups.²⁵⁹ Its administrative office is located at Thomaspuram, Sangarapuram (PO), Nilakottai Taluk.

Mission

The mission of the organisation is to make casteless, classless, creedless and just society and to attain the sustainable development in the rural areas.²⁶⁰

²⁵⁶ Interview with Mrs.P.Sophia, Treasurer, RIDO, Natham, on 3.9.2008.

²⁵⁷ Interview with Mr.S.Chinnan, Secretary, CENTREREDA, Thomaspuram, on 4.8.2008.

²⁵⁸ Paul Frier is a Russian Social Reformer.

²⁵⁹ Interview with Mrs.N.Valarmathi, Co-ordinator, CENTREREDA, Thomaspuram, on 08.08.2008.

²⁶⁰ Organisation Profile of CENTREREDA, Thomaspuram, n.d., p.2.

Objectives

- To attain the sustainable women development through organising women Self Help Groups, facilitating to practice micro-credit operations and motivating them to set up micro-enterprises.
- To create the social awareness among the rural people.
- To inculcate new values and to eliminate superstitions among the rural people.
- To eradicate poverty by giving self employment opportunities through trainings on the required technical skills.
- To develop children through education support and to reduce school dropouts.²⁶¹

Management

CENTREREDA is managed by the Secretary Mr.S.Chinnan. The Secretary is responsible for conducting all the activities like decision making, financial allocation and conducting welfare programmes. The executive committee is having seven members with the President T.Vimala, Secretary S.Chinnan, Treasurer M.Jayalakshmi and with four other executive members. The executive committee is selected by the General body of 15 members. The executive committee meets once in three months to evaluate, to review the works done and to decide on the future activities. The General body meets once in a year to discuss the activities of the organisation and to decide the future course of action.²⁶²

Funds

It is implementing the programmes with the assistance of Central and State Government Departments, viz., Department of Science and Technology,

²⁶¹ *Idem.*

²⁶² Interview with Mrs.T.Vimala, President, CENTREREDA, Thomaspuram on 02.08.2008.

Department of Human Resource Development, CAPART, Department of Social Welfare of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, Department of Forests, Department of Agriculture and District Rural Development Agency. It is getting donation from the foreign agencies viz., HEKS, Switzerland, Child Relief and You (CRY) KFO, Austria and ILO, Geneva.²⁶³

20. Basic Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS)

Basic Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS) was established in 1991 in Vedasandur. The miserable living conditions motivated a social activist C. Chinnalagar to start the BIRDS society. It is extending services to the people in Vedasandur, Oddanchatram and Reddiarchatram Blocks of Dindigul district. Community organisation, vocational training programmes and income generating activities were given more importance. It was established under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. The Registration No is 88/1991.²⁶⁴ It is located at Ariyapitthampatty, Thattarapatty Post, Vedasandur Taluk – 624710.

Mission

The mission of the organization is to work for comprehensive sustainable development of deprived and disadvantaged rural people especially women and children.²⁶⁵

Aims and Objectives

- To plan for and work with village people irrespective of religion, race, caste, community or social status for fostering fraternity and

²⁶³ Interview with Mrs.M.Jayalakshmi, Treasurers, CENTREREDA, Thomaspuram, on 9.08.2008.

²⁶⁴ Organisation Profile of BIRDS, Ariyapitthampatty, n.d., p.1.

²⁶⁵ *Idem.*

to improve their social, economical and political development creating social consciousness in them.

- To provide opportunities for women to be motivated in economic development, family planning and other family welfare measures.
- To offer training in productive village and cottage industries and small scale industries.
- To provide materials, equipments and machineries at a reasonable rate or at free of cost to the villages and to guide and to undertake the production of cottage and other crafts in small scale industries.
- To provide training to the villagers in scientific agricultural methods, dairy management and in rural based industries.
- To initiate, support and promote the advancement of educational activities for children.²⁶⁶

Management

BIRDS is managed by an executive committee consisting of five members viz. the President C.Muthusonaiammal, the Secretary C. Chinnalagar, the Treasurer R. Balasubramanian and two other members. The executive committee meets once in three months to review and evaluate the programmes being implemented. The executive committee members are elected by the General body which is consisting eight members. The General body meets once in a year to review the programmes. The Secretary is vested with the responsibilities of conducting the activities of the organisation and to allocate funds to the various programmes under the guidance of executive committee.²⁶⁷

Funds

It is receiving financial assistance from the Department of Environment and Forest and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of Union

²⁶⁶ Bye-Laws of BIRDS, Ariyapithampatty, 1991, pp.3-4.

²⁶⁷ Interview with Mr.C.Chinnalagar, Secretary, BIRDS, on 13.08.2008.

Government, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, District Rural Development Agency(DRDA), Tamil Nadu Wasteland Development Agency (TAWDEVA), Social Welfare Department of Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association to conduct various developmental programmes. It also receives funds from the foreign agency SHALLOWS, Denmark to empower Dalits.²⁶⁸

21.Society for Serving Humanity (SSH)

Society for Serving Humanity (SSH) was established on June 13, 1988 by A. Britto Selvaraj at Sempatti near Athoor. It has completed 20 years of service in the development of women, children and poor marginalized people. It is extending services in the areas of education, health, environment, women development, child care and sustainable agriculture to achieve Integrated Human Development. It has brought out the development in the lives of underprivileged people especially women. It has been rendering valuable services in the realm of promotion of geological balance and formation of sustainable hunger free community through group organization and capacity building. It was established under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. The Registration number is 71/1988.²⁶⁹ It is located at Madurai Road, Sempatti, Athoor Taluk-624707.

Mission

Promotion of a sustainable hunger free and disease free communities and conservation of eco-environment among the small farmers and agricultural labourers, particularly women and children of backward people through group organization building and networking with other like minded NGOs and federation.²⁷⁰

²⁶⁸ Interview with Mr.R.Balasubramanian, Treasurer, BIRDS, on 14.8.2008.

²⁶⁹ Brochure, SSH, Sempatty, n.d., p.1.

²⁷⁰ Organisation Profile of SSH, Sempatty, n.d, p.3.

Objectives

- To develop the women by imparting trainings and motivating to do income generating activities.
- To educate the children by increasing the school enrollment and to create our opportunity for receiving childhood happiness.
- To strengthen women groups and to work towards the sustenance of women.
- To provide self-employment opportunity to the rural people by giving entrepreneurial training.
- To render health services to the people and community sensitization on HIV/AIDS.²⁷¹

Management

SSH is being managed by the Founder and Secretary Mr.A.Britto Selvaraj. The executive committee consists of seven members with the President V.Antony Sahayaraj, the Secretary and Treasurer A.Britto Selvaraj and five other members. The executive committee meets once in six months to discuss and evaluate the programmes being implemented to decide the new programmes and to allocate finance to different programmes.²⁷²

Funds

The programmes are being implemented with the assistance of various schemes of Central and State Government Departments. It is also generating funds from the donors viz, Japan Asian Friendship Society (JAFS), Japan, LACIM, France and Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association (TNVHA), Chennai.²⁷³

²⁷¹ *Ibid.*, pp.4-5.

²⁷² Interview with Mr.A.Britto Selvaraj, Secretary, SSH, Sempatty, on 6.9.2008.

²⁷³ *Idem.*

22. Sri Sakthi Social Economical and Educational Welfare Trust (Sakthi Trust)

Sri Sakthi Social Economical and Educational Welfare Trust (Sakthi Trust) was founded by S.P.Jothi in 2001. Since 2002, the Trust has been involved in promoting Self Help Groups for their sustainable economic development through relevant self employment schemes. Nearly 21,567 women members are guided by the Trust. It has organized ecological programmes and campaigns against non-biodegradable products in its operational areas. Health programmes are being conducted including AIDS awareness, eye camps and mother and child screening camps. It was established under Indian Trust Act, 1972. The Registration number is 281/2001. It is located at 12th Ward, Ramalinga Nagar, Ayyampalayam, Athoor Taluk-624204.²⁷⁴

Mission

The mission of the Trust is to establish a new society of equality, fraternity, justice and peace among the oppressed and suppressed neglected and forgotten people of the society and struggle for their sustainable development.²⁷⁵

Objectives

- To develop educational, cultural, economical and social status of women.
- To attain the sustainable development of rural poor women.
- To empower women through organising Self Help Groups and motivating to set up micro finance and micro enterprises.
- To train the rural unemployed women in small scale and cottage industries.
- To conduct legal aid programmes to create awareness among women.
- To promote non conventional energy programmes among the members of women Self Help Groups.²⁷⁶

²⁷⁴ Profile of Sakthi Trust, Ayyampalayam, 2007, p.1.

²⁷⁵ *Annual Report 2007-2008*, Sakthi Trust, Ayyampalayam, 2008, p.3.

Management

Sakthi Trust and its activities are administrated by the Board of Directors consisting of the President S.P.Jothi, the Secretary and Treasurer N.S.Sakthivel and four other members. The Board meets once in three months to review the programmes and to decide the activities of the Trust in future.²⁷⁷

Funds

The Trust is getting financial assistance from the District Rural Development Agency and NABARD. Sakthi Trust is nominated as business facilitator for the Self Help Groups by the State Bank of India.²⁷⁸

23. Annai Dherasa Women's and Child Welfare Trust

(Annai Dherasa Trust)

The Trust was founded on April 23, 2004 by P.Karunanithi. It has been rendering services to the rural people of Oddanchatram, Thoppampatti, Reddiarchatram and Palani Blocks of Dindigul District. It is focussing mainly on the development of women and children in the target area. It has been registered under Indian Trust Act, 1972. The Registration number is 103/2004. The Trust is located at 4, Aruna Complex, Opposite to Railway Station, Palani Road, Oddanchatram-624619.²⁷⁹

Mission

The mission of the organisation is to develop the women and children through various programmes and to render health services to the people.²⁸⁰

²⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, pp.4-5.

²⁷⁷ Interview with Mr. N.S.Sakthivel, Secretary Cum Treasurer, Sakthi Trust, on 30.08.2008.

²⁷⁸ *Idem.*

²⁷⁹ Interview with Mr. P.Karunanithi, Secretary cum Treasurer, Annai Teresa Trust, on 16.8.2008.

²⁸⁰ *Trust Deed*, Annai Dherasa Women's and Child Welfare Trust, Oddanchatram, Record No.103, August 2004, p.2.

Objectives

- To develop the women through organising Self Help Groups and strengthening the groups.
- To lift the economical status of women by facilitating them to set up micro-enterprises.
- By imparting vocational training to women to practice income generating activities.
- To reduce the school drop outs through welfare programmes.
- To enhance the educational standard of the poor children through evening tuition centres.
- To conduct medical camps in rural areas to provide access to the poor people to medical services.²⁸¹

Management

The Trust is being managed by the executive committee consisting of the Chairman P.K.Murugesan, Secretary-cum-Treasurer P.Karunanithi and five other executive committee members. The executive committee meets once in three months to discuss the programmes and to decide the activities in future. The general body consists of ten members and meets once in an year.²⁸²

Funds

The Trust is getting financial assistance from the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women. and Social Welfare Department of Tamil Nadu to implement the women and children developmental programmes respectively.²⁸³

24. The Association for Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA)

The Association for Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA) was established in 1969 in Tamil Nadu. The ASSEFA is inspired and motivated by the Gandhian Philosophy of *Sarvodaya* (Welfare of All). The ASSEFA is the second phase of

²⁸¹ *Ibid.*, p.4.

²⁸² Interview with Mr.P.K.Murugesan, Chairman, Annai Dherasa Trust, on 18.08.2008.

²⁸³ *Idem.*

Boodhan (Gramdan) movement, a nonviolent socio-economic land gift movement initiated in the early fifties to emancipate the weaker sections through *Anthyodhya* (unto the last) in the upliftment of the last person in the society. The ASSEFA activities are spread over in nine states, 62 districts and over 3600 villages which provides the base for the movement of the people.²⁸⁴

The ASSEFA started its activities in Dindigul District in 1981. The Sethur Sirangattupathi project in Natham Block was implemented with the concept of Gramdan Development, encompassing about 32 hamlets. The ASSEFA's approach to development has always been people centered. In early eighties the task was to organize people associations known as *Grama Sabhas* (village assemblies) in the project area and all developmental efforts are channelised through these peoples associations.²⁸⁵

Since 1989, ASSEFA has been implementing programmes in developing sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry, village industries, rural housing, social forestry, health, education and women and community development. It was registered in 1978 under Societies Registration Act, 1975. The Registration number is 139/1978. The Project office of the organisation is located at Shanthigramam, Idappatti Post, Natham.

Mission

The mission of ASSEFA is to build a socially congruous society without losing individual identity and respect at the same time spur it to action for the upliftment of social, cultural and economic life of all. It also strives to resurrect the community values by bringing a model of change that incorporates the best from the tradition and the modern and discards the worst.²⁸⁶

²⁸⁴ B.Srileka, Historical Development of ASSEFA (1969-1989), unpublished M.Phil Dissertation, Madurai Kamaraj University, 1990, p.3.

²⁸⁵ Interview with R.Mahendran, Project Manager, ASSEFA, Natham, on 15.07.2008.

²⁸⁶ Organisation Profile, ASSEFA/Natham Block Project, Natham, n.d., p.1.

Aims And Objectives

- To improve the economic, social and cultural status of rural communities and enhance their skills and self management capacity.
- To unite the rural community without any form or kind of prejudice or discrimination and to spur them to action for the upliftment of social, cultural and economic life of all.
- To bring about self reliance of the community by mobilising the productive forces and by reinforcing the initiative and working capacity of the individual.
- To establish self sufficient, self reliant and self managed communities based on principles of freedom, economic equality and social justice.²⁸⁷

Management

The executive committee consists of the President S.Loganathan, Secretary S.Pandian and Treasurer N.Vasantha and other six executive Committee members. Each project is being managed by a sector office under the guidance of project manager. The project manager of Natham is R.Mahendran, who is assisted by the sector officer, professional staff and special projects staff for each programme and administrative staff.²⁸⁸

Funds

The ASSEFA is receiving financial assistance from the various Central and State Government Departments to implement various programmes. It is being mainly funded by the Action Village India (AVI), United Kingdom, an organization working with the Gandhian philosophy.²⁸⁹

²⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, pp.2-3.

²⁸⁸ Sixth Annual Report, 2006-2007, Sarvodaya Nano Finance Limited, ASSEFA, Chennai, p.3.

²⁸⁹ Interview with Mr.N.Vasantha, Treasurer, ASSEFA, Madurai, on17.07.2008.

25. Society for Peoples Action for Change and Education (SPACE)

Society for Peoples Action for Change and Education (SPACE) has been working in four districts of Tamil Nadu viz. Dindigul, Madurai, Sivagangai and Coimbatore. It is concentrating on the formation of community organization in the villages to provide self sufficiency and sustainability. It is promoting spice tourism and eco tourism in Kodaikanal and Thadiankudisai hilly areas with the financial assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It was established on May 2, 1980 and registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. The registration number is 21/1980. It is extending its services to the integrated development of people in Sanarpatti and Kodaikanal Blocks.²⁹⁰ The administrative office is located at 14, St. Mary's Road, Kodaikanal-624101.

Mission

To provide material and technical services to the needy in Agriculture and other developmental aspects on an integrated basis; to coordinate such activities with the aid and help of Social development agencies and Government departments; to bring the agricultural lands under cultivation in the project area in order to maintain sustenance and to provide employment; to work for the betterment of rural women.²⁹¹

Objectives

- To cater to the needs of economically, socially, educationally weaker sections of the people.
- To develop the Cultural outlook of the people in the area.

²⁹⁰ Organisation Profile of SPACE, Kodaikkanal, n.d., p.2.

²⁹¹ *Twenty fifth Annual Report (2004-2005)*, SPACE, Kodaikkanal, 2005, p.3.

- To improve the educational and social facilities of the area through Non-formal and Development education.
- To offer trainings and to motivate to start village industries and small scale industries.
- To make the rural women to attain sustainable development and to provide opportunities to raise their socio economic level.
- To organise and participate in the cultural function to propagate secularism and to include and develop an awareness of social welfare among the people.²⁹²

Management

The organisation is managed by the executive committee. The chairman is vested with the responsibilities of implementing and evaluating the programmes and allocating funds to the programmes. The General body consists of fifteen members and it meets once in an year to review the activities and to plan the programmes in future. The executive body consists of seven members. The Chairman of the executive committee is Rev. Fr. J.Joshva, the Secretary is S.Chellappa and the Treasurer is Dr.S.Vijayalakshmi. The Executive Committee meets once in three months to review the activities of the organization.²⁹³

Funds

The Social Welfare Department, District Industrial Centre, District Rural Development Agency and Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women of State Government; Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Central Government are giving financial assistance to the organisation. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is providing financial assistance to the organization for the Watershed Development Activities. United

²⁹² *Ibid.*, pp.3-4.

²⁹³ Interview with Mr.S.Chellappa, Secretary, SPACE, Kodaikanal on 16.9.2008.

Nation's Development Programme (UNDP), New Delhi, JAN EN, Willimies, Netherlands and Global Green Grants Fund, U.S.A. are sponsoring the Programmes implemented by the organisation.²⁹⁴

It is interesting to note that Dindigul District is the only district wherein we find a large number of NGOs have been operating in Tamil Nadu. Mainly it can be attributed to the inspiration provided by the Gandhigram Rural Institute located in Dindigul District. Further it can be noted that either all of them or most of them have been established after independence.

Of the 25 NGOs taken up for study 8 of them have been rendering service with religion. Christianity is the main source of inspiration for these NGOs. Foremost among the NGOs taken up for study is Gandhigram Rural Institute, earliest one established in 1947. Annai Dherasa Women's and Child Welfare Trust was found in the year 2004.

There was a mushroom growth of NGOs during 1985 to 1995 due to the governmental efforts taken for generating employment for the rural youth under the scheme Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM). Ranging from the annual plan outlay of Rs.30 lakhs to 10 crores, the NGOs under study have been working for the development of target groups in rural and urban Dindigul region. They have been in focus for the past 63 years. Most of them have been located either in Dindigul town or in nearby places of a maximum of 30 km radius. These NGOs execute their services in all the 14 Blocks of Dindigul District. The focused areas of social development attempted by these NGOs are as follows: Education, Health care, Women Development, Child care, Conservation of Environment, Employment and Income generating activities, Sustainable Agriculture and Disabled development.

²⁹⁴ Interview with Mr.S.Ramesh, Director, SPACE, Kodaikanal, on 18.09.2008.

All the NGOs under study have been registered bodies either coming under Trust or Society dispensation eligible to receive financial assistance and grants by the state, centre as also foreign agencies and philanthropists.

By and large these NGOs are expected to be easily accessible to the stake holders or the target groups in their mission to achieve equity and social justice in the society. In fact they operate covertly as parallel governments in the society.