CHAPTER –IV

SELECTED CASE STUDIES
The selected case study adds to the authenticity of the research work in this field. The researcher had made an attempt to visit three groups daily in the selected area of his research. The three groups / parliaments includes one best functioning group, the second one as moderately functioning group and the third as group that had failure in functioning and not effective in its existence. The groups were interviewed in person by the researcher and it is encouraging to study the results which are presented here in this chapter. The case study has been made under four titles and interventions. The tools are prepared under the following titles namely; 1) Duration of the existence of the group. 2) Achievements 3) Methodology of conducting the regular parliament 4) Reasons and Approaches for their Success / Failure.

I. The Effectively Functioning Group

Place : Chinna Muttam, Kannyakumari district.
Date of the study : 11-03-2006.

Duration of the Existence of the Group

This parliament has been existing and functioning since five years. The neighbourhood parliament of children has 27 members. There were twelve ministers like Prime Minister, Home minister, Educational minister, Minister for Health and Hygiene, Sports minister, Minister for the Environment protection, Food minister, etc. Each one of them was quiet serious about their departments and were trying to narrate all their success events and the process of how they tried to implement their plans and decisions.

Achievements

It is obviously amazing to witness the achievements of the children’s parliament.
1. Rallies were organized to create awareness on the importance of the education and many school drop outs were readmitted to the schools.

2. The children have paid the school fees and bought uniforms for the school drop outs from the small savings of their parliament.

3. In order to promote environment cleanliness in their living areas, the parliament members spend one hour on every Sunday to keep their surroundings clean by collecting the dust and wastages thrown into the streets and also admonish the people not to repeat it again.

4. The children function as the agents of social changes.

5. Though some children become drop outs from the school due to family poverty, the parliament members support morally, psychologically with monetary help to continue their education through distant education.

6. Small saving schemes are introduced to develop this future oriented character.

7. To promote eco-protection and reduce environmental pollution, each family has planted a tree as initiated by the parliament members.

8. The differently abled children are provided with needed psychological support through counselling and guidance.

9. The basic amenities like street light facilities, drainage facilities, drinking water facilities, proper road and enough transport facilities are created through the intervention of the children parliament.

10. Social mapping is done by the ministers of the parliament so as to prioritize the social problems faced by the people of the area.

11. There were efforts and interventions in eradicating the Child Labour from the area.

12. Orphans were concentrated with special concern and affection.

13. Awareness on incurable diseases like HIV/AIDS and cancer were made to the people through the involvement and initiatives of the neighbourhood parliament through the media of Street theatre.

14. Cultural day was organized to exhibit the talents of the parliament members and other children as well and prizes were distributed to encourage everybody.
15. District level mela was organized and the children from all over the district participated in thousands and this event helped each one of the members to intermingle with each other. The relationship of the neighbourhood parliament members were strengthened.

16. Participation and involvement of the parliament members are encouraging.

17. The members of the parliament did admit that they have grown in their personal talents and skills.

18. They have better growth of personality trait or development and in self asserting leadership qualities with self esteem.

**Methodology of conducting the regular parliament**

The procedure of conducting the parliament meeting on the regular basis is done in this prescribed form.

1. To begin with a Prayer. (A common prayer irrespective of Religion or caste).

2. Election of the speaker for the day. (we call as Parliament Speaker in technical term).

3. Welcome address by the Prime Minister.

4. Role call. (Confirming the presence of the members and ministers).

5. Submission of the minutes. (of the previous meeting)

6. Sharing of general knowledge and group games for some time and it is done only in the neighbourhood level and not in the village or the other higher level parliaments.

7. Discussions and decision making process.

8. Submission of the report of Small savings.

9. Thanks giving.

10. Song of the parliament or National Anthem.
Reasons and Approaches for their Success.

When the neighbourhood parliament members were intervened regarding their successful functioning, they did respond optimistically.

1. Encouragement from the Animators; the first reason that the respondents acknowledged was the support and encouragement from the animators the NCN. They were clear in their response that it was not the monetary support but moral and psychological supports which enthused them with self confidence.

2. Appropriate orientation and training; The trained animators constantly visited the parliaments and offered appropriate orientation and training regarding the functioning of the same.

3. Seminars and training programs; the seminars and input sessions conducted by the NCN organizations motivated them to act upon effectively. The awareness sessions on government developmental schemes and knowledge of societal analysis have offered them with enough insights to function as an effective instrument.

4. The use of opportunism; when the circumstances are favourable to achieve we must not just miss it and this policy has favoured the success of this parliaments.

5. New relationship with indiscrimination; there was no any discrimination by caste, religion, and social status among the parliament members. Therefore the relationship built in the parliament was a tremendous unifying force to work together towards the success of any effort made in the parliament.

6. The Impact and advantages of being in Network; Since neighbourhood parliaments are federated and networked from the neighbourhood community to national level, it has a greater value in their relationship, mutual encouragement, support to each other.

7. The support and involvement of the Parents; this was another important factor needed for the successful functioning. The respondents expressed with the
feelings of fulfillment and content that they were highly encouraged by their parents to participate in such parliaments.

8. Personal Growth; The respondents have developed better personalities with better leadership qualities. They have learned to speak boldly improved in their involvement, grown in their personal skills and talents, developed in their participatory skills and respected each other with their own dignity, etc.

9. The respondents admitted that their scope was very much limited before joining the neighbourhood parliament. They exercised their freedom and knowledge and skill only within their home and school but now they have expanded their involvement in the wider circle of the society.

10. Another personality development was conducting parliaments with peaceful atmosphere and with due respect to each other and not like the parliament functioning in Delhi or the legislative body in Chennai who always fight tooth and nail for nothing or for the selfish motive. Thus this neighbourhood parliament functions as a model parliament. These were the important factors and reasons that the respondents offered to the researcher.

2. Moderately Functioning Group

Place : Arockia Puram, Kannyakumari district.
Date of the study : 11-03-2006.

Duration of the Existence of the Group

This parliament has been existing and functioning since five years. The neighbourhood parliament of children has 35 members. There were twelve ministers like Prime Minister, Home minister, Educational minister, Minister for Health and Hygiene, Sports minister, Minister for the Environment protection, Food minister, etc. Each one of them were quiet serious about their departments and were trying to
narrate all their success events and the process of how they tried to implement their plans and decisions but not as effective as the first group.

Achievements

It is admirable to witness the achievements of the children’s parliament in Arockia Puram but these achievements are not so remarkable as we find in the first group.

1. Rallies were organized to create awareness on the importance of the education and many schools Drop out children were readmitted to the schools.
2. In order to promote environment cleanliness in their living areas, the parliament members spend one hour on every Sunday to keep their surroundings clean by collecting the dust and wastages thrown into the streets and also admonish the people not to repeat it again but this practice was irregular.
3. The children function as the agents of Social Changes but some of them were not involving themselves totally.
4. Though some children become drop outs from the school due to family poverty, the parliament members support morally, psychologically with financial help to continue their education through distant education.
5. Small saving schemes are introduced but some of them were not prompt in doing it.
6. To promote eco-protection and reduce environmental pollution, each family has planted a tree as initiated by the parliament members.
7. The differently abled children are provided with needed psychological support through counseling and guidance.
8. The basic amenities like street light facilities, drainage facilities, drinking water facilities, proper road and enough transport facilities are created through the intervention of the children’s parliament.
9. Social Mapping is done by the ministers of the parliament so as to prioritize the social problems faced by the people of the area.

10. There were efforts and interventions in eradicating the child labour from the area.

11. Cultural day was organized to exhibit the talents of the parliament members and other children as well and prizes were distributed to encourage everybody.

12. District level mela was organized and the children from all over the district participated in thousands and this event helped each one of the members to intermingle with each other. The relationship between the neighbourhood parliament members were strengthened.

13. They have better growth of personality trait or development and in self asserting leadership qualities with self esteem.

The above mentioned achievements are true but it has not reaped a hundred percent harvest since the parliament members had their own limitations.

**Methodology of conducting the regular parliament**

The procedure of conducting the parliament meeting on the regular basis is done in this prescribed form.

1. To begin with a prayer. (A common prayer irrespective of Religion or Caste).
2. Election of the speaker for the day. (we call as Parliament Speaker in technical term).
3. Welcome Address by the prime minister.
4. Role call. (Confirming the presence of the members and ministers).
5. Submission of the minutes. (of the previous meeting)
6. Sharing of general knowledge and group games some times and it is done only in neighbourhood level and not in the village or the other higher level parliaments.
7. Discussions and decision making process.
8. Submission of the report of Small savings.
Reasons and Approaches for their Moderate Success and limitations.

When the neighbourhood parliament members were intervened regarding their limited success in functioning, they did respond optimistically but with some reservations of dissatisfaction.

Positive intervention:

1. Encouragement from the animators; the first reason that the respondents acknowledged was the support and encouragement from the animators the NCN. They were clear in their response that it was not the monitory support but moral and psychological supports that enthused them with self confidence.
2. Appropriate Orientation and Training; The trained animators constantly visited the parliaments and offered appropriate orientation and training regarding the functioning of the same.
3. Seminars and Training programs; The seminars and in-put sessions conducted by the NCN organization motivated them to act upon effectively. The awareness sessions on government developmental schemes and knowledge of societal analysis have offered them with enough insights to function as an effective instrument.
4. The use of Opportunism; when the circumstances are favourable to achieve we must not just miss it and this policy has favoured the success of this parliament.
5. New relationship with indiscrimination; there was no discrimination by caste, religion, social status among the parliament members. Therefore the relationship built in the parliament was a tremendous unifying force to work together towards the success of any effort made in the parliament.
6. The Impact and advantages of being in network; Since neighbourhood parliaments are federated and networked from the neighbourhood community
to national level, it has a greater value in their relationship, mutual encouragement, support to each other.

7. Personal Growth; The respondents have developed better personalities with better leadership qualities. They have learned to speak boldly, improved in their involvement, grown in their personal skills and talents, developed in their participatory skills, respecting each other with their own dignity, etc.

**Limitations:**

1. The responses of the parliament members were poor.
2. There exists minimum participation in the functioning of neighbourhood parliament.
3. There was no response in attending the training programs conducted for the members of neighbourhood parliament.
4. The less attentiveness of NCN animators.
5. There is irregularity in attendance for every meeting.
6. There is a need for more training.

3. **Non-successful group.** (Group Failed to Function)

   Place : **Muttam, Kannyakumari district.**
   Date of the study : **11-03-2006.**
   Nature of the Group : **Children Parliament.**

**Duration of the Existence of the Group**

This parliament has been existing since five years. The neighbourhood parliament of children has 32 members. There were twelve ministers like Prime Minister, Home minister, Educational minister, Minister for Health and Hygiene, Sports minister, Minister for the Environment protection, Food minister, etc. When the researcher had reached the located place, he could hardly find few ministers of the
parliament. Having waited for few hours, more than half of the group members arrived one by one and were trying to narrate the present status of their parliament and the reasons for their failures in achieving their goals, the struggles and hurdles that they are facing in the parliament.

Achievements

It is true that this neighbourhood parliament has been formed like any other in the district with all vigour and they were also active and potential in the beginning. But they could not continue with the same team spirit. It was another unique learning experience for the researcher so as to evaluate the effectiveness and authenticity of the neighbourhood parliament and also to suggest some innovative approach to make it effective in the future. They have also the following few success events which benefited minimally to them as well as to the society:

1. In order to promote environment cleanliness in their living areas, the parliament members spend one hour on every Sunday to keep their surroundings clean by collecting the dust and wastages thrown into the streets and also admonish the people not to repeat it again but this practice was irregular.

2. Small saving schemes are introduced but some of them were not prompt to do it.

3. To promote Eco protection and reduce environmental pollution, each family has planted a tree as initiated by the parliament members.

4. District level mela was organized and the children from all over the district did participate in thousands and this event helped each one of the members to intermingle with each other. The relationship between the neighbourhood parliament members were strengthened.

5. They have better growth of personality trait or development and in self asserting leadership qualities with self esteem but to very minimum level.
The above mentioned achievements are true but it has not reaped even one third (1/3) percent of harvest since the parliament members had their own limitations.

**Methodology of conducting the regular parliament**

The procedure of conducting the parliament meeting on the regular basis is done in this prescribed form.

1. To begin with a Prayer. (A common prayer irrespective of Religion or Caste).
2. Election of the Speaker for the day. (we call as Parliament Speaker in technical term).
3. Welcome Address by the Prime Minister.
4. Role call. (Confirming the presence of the members and ministers).
5. Submission of the Minutes. (of the previous meeting)
6. Sharing of General Knowledge and group games some times and it is done only in heighbourhood level and not in the village or the other higher level parliaments.
7. Discussions and Decision making process.
8. Submission of the report of Small savings.
9. Thanks giving.
10. Song of the parliament or National Anthem.

**Reasons and Limitations for the failure.**

When the neighbourhood parliament members were intervened regarding their very limited success in functioning, they did acknowledge with frankness, the limitations existing in their parliament. It is true with the parliament members that they themselves genuinely feel the dissatisfaction. Being aware of their shortcomings, limitations are also the indication that the members have the willingness to overcome the same. Once they are guided and animated appropriately then they will win over their weaknesses and will be vigourous in their functioning.
**Positive intervention:**

1. New Relationship with indiscrimination; there was no discrimination by Caste, Religion, social status among the parliament members. Therefore the relationship built in the parliament was a tremendous unifying force to work together towards the success of any effort made in the parliament.

2. Personal Growth; The respondents have developed better personalities with better leadership qualities. They have learned to speak boldly, improved in their involvement, grown in their personal skills and talents, developed in their participatory skills, respecting each other with their own dignity, etc.

**Limitations:**

1. The response of this neighborhood parliament members were very poor.
2. There exists minimum participation in the functioning of neighborhood parliament.
3. There was no response in attending the training programs conducted for the members of neighborhood parliament through NCN office.
4. The less attentiveness of NCN animators.
5. They need to be trained still more.
6. They lack moral and psychological support from the animators that will boost them with self-confidence.
7. Though seminars, training programs and input sessions conducted by the NCN organization motivated them to act upon effectively, the initiatives of the members are practically nil.
8. The use of Opportunism; when the circumstances are favourable to achieve we must not just miss it and here the members seem not bothered about it.
9. They are ignorant of the Impact and Advantages of being in Network; Since neighborhood parliaments are federated and networked from the neighborhood community to national level, it has a greater value in their
relationship, mutual encouragement, support to each other but these factors are unknown to them.

10. There is no sense of intermingling with other NCN parliaments.
11. There is irregularity in the attendance for the parliamentary meetings.
12. They exhibit lack of interest to involve in planning and implementation of any activities and as a result they have very minimum societal awareness and social analytical frame of mind.

The existing neighbourhood parliaments in KK district are functioning effectively in general and more than half of the total neighbourhood parliaments in the district are benefiting with very effective results. Some parliaments are moderate in its actualization of planning, implementing and in monitoring while very few parliaments are inactive due to the above-mentioned reasons and rectifiable limitations. One should also view those limitations as steppingstones towards the better formation and implementation of neighbourhood parliaments further in future with creativity and new apprehensions and with innovativeness for the establishment of a future society with social justice, peace and equality. It is certainly possible.