CHAPTER III

ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION IN TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

Tirunelveli is a city in the Indian State of Tamil Nadu. It is the headquarters of the Tirunelveli District and the sixth biggest city in Tamil Nadu. It is situated 700 kilometres south west of the state capital, Chennai. Tirunelveli District is bounded on the East by Thuthukudi, the famous port in the Coromandal Coast, on the west by the Pothigai Hills, the fragment of the Western Ghat, on the North by Virudhunagar, another District of Tamil Nadu and on the South by Kanyakumari.

The Non-Governmental Organisations of Tirunelveli have been initiating a wide range of activities like construction and maintenance of educational institutions, hospitals, oldage homes, providing jobs to the needy through various economic development programmes, women development programmes and other community services. It also includes organized social action for
social justice and of socio-political and economic development.
The basic task of Non-Governmental Organisations of Tirunelveli District is to develop humanity.

In Tirunelveli District, 394 Non-Governmental Organisations have registered under Tamil Nadu Society Registration Act of 1975. Considering the multifarious extent of their operation in their welfare programmes eleven important Non-Governmental Organisations have been selected for the study. The prominent Non-Governmental Organisations selected for the study in Tirunelveli District are:

1. Tirunelveli Social Service Society - TSSS
2. SCAD – Social Change and Development Organisation
3. Arumbugal Trust
4. Saranalayam
5. Puratchi Trust
6. Education and Economic Empowerment Trust
7. Peace Trust
8. Nava Jeevan Trust
9. Vaan Muhil Trust
10. Siva Trust
11. Vidyarambam Trust
1. TIRUNELVELI SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

Genesis

The Tirunelveli Social Service Society familiarly known as T.S.S.S. was founded in 1972\(^1\). It is the official organ of the Catholic Diocese of Palayamkottai. The T.S.S.S. works for the social advancement of marginalized women, children and unorganized workers. The motto of the T.S.S.S. is "That they may have life". T.S.S.S. operates in 15 Blocks of Tirunelveli District and 3 Blocks in Thuthukudi District. It also works with Tirunelveli Corporation. The jurisdiction of the TSSS covers 612.7 sq. kilometres with a population of 2652273\(^2\). It has the vision a establishing a just society adopting human values of love, peace, justice, equality and prosperity among the poor and the marginalized.

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\(^1\) Appendix. I.

\(^2\) Pamphlet circulated by the Executive Director TSSS.
Growth and Achievements of the TSSS

The TSSS has initiated women development in 1988 by forming groups, promoting savings and health education. Today it is one of the leading Non-Governmental Organization partners of Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation with more than 1000 Self Help Groups and 16000 members. Women who are living in villages, panchayats, blocks and district levels have been federated into one unit known as "Mahalir Membattu Iyyakkam" (Women Development Movement)\(^3\)

The TSSS has been appointed as the District Service Provider by the Government against domestic violence. TSSS has been successful in bringing reconciliation among families through sensitization, counselling, legal actions, referred services and treatment. It facilitates women federation to take actions against violence and exploitation of women\(^4\). Many children and women have been rescued from torture and violence. To supplement their

\(^3\) Pamphlet circulated by the executive Director of T.S.S.S., P.2.  
\(^4\) T.S.S. INDIA, Executive Section, P.2.
family income young women are trained in tailoring, readymade garment making, nutritional powder making and organic farming.

**Agriculture and Ecology**

Agriculture is the main occupation of more than 70% of the population in India. Yet small farmers struggle for their survival. Many are being alienated from their lands and most of them have become landless labourers and migrate to urban centres for seeking potential employment. The T.S.S.S has taken efforts to prevent migration and support the farmers through technical and financial support.

The Tirunelveli Social Service Society encourages organic agriculture which sustains the health of the soil. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all those who are involved in T.S.S.S. With the support of Episcopale Conferenza Italiana organic farming was promoted among small and marginal farmers of Tirunelveli District.
since 2008. Imparting knowledge and skills in organic farming practices is the key element of the programme. Twenty model villages had been selected for this purpose and 400 farmers were given intensive training in natural farming\(^5\).

With a view to adding value to the organic products and encourage organic farming practices among farming communities T.S.S.S has established an organic outlet at Palayamkottai. The cost of the organic products was fixed at higher rates by 10\% over the other products in the market. Women are given assistance to cultivate greens, vegetables and fruits which are brought to the organic market.\(^6\) Vegetables like bitter gourd, snake gourd, onions, tomatoes, bringals and green chillies are produced and marketed.

**Rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamils**

The ethnic violence in Sri Lanka triggered thousands of Tamil Sri Lankans to leave Sri Lanka and land in India as refugees. The unused structure constructed by the British military as a

\(^5\) TSS India, pamphlet, P.6.
\(^6\) Interview with M.A. Durai Raj TSSS Programme Officer 26-11-2012.
godown was used by the local administration for providing shelter to the Sri Lankan refugees who came to Tirunelveli District on 25.07.1990. The good old structure was on the verge of collapse. At the request of the Commissioner for refugee rehabilitation the United Nations Convention on Refugee Service in Chennai came forward to construct a new shelter home for the 96 families living in Naranammalpuram camp. The Tirunelveli Social Service Society became the implementing partner to the united National Convention on Refugee Service.\(^7\) 96 shelters homes were built at Gangaikondan, a place ten kilometres away from Tirunelveli, where the 96 Srilankan refugees were accommodated. The T.S.S.S.S arranged driving classes by paying the tuition fee and license fee. Interested youths were sent for short term computer courses.

**Free Legal Aid Campaign**

In collaboration with the District magistrate of Tirunelveli, the Trinelveli Social Service Society of Tirunelveli has launched a Free Legal Compaign in rural areas. The legal professionals and

\(^7\) TSSS India, op.cit, P.12.
the TSSS team emphasise the importance of amicable settlement of disputes in village structure\textsuperscript{8}. In case of complicated issues, the people are asked to approach free legal cell functioning in all district courts. Nearly 4000 people have been oriented on the legal rights and procedures for establishing their rights\textsuperscript{9}. The campaign has been supported and facilitated by the District judges, Advocates and members of five legal aid cells.

To protect women from domestic violence, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act was passed in 2005. The Domestic Violence Act provides adequate space for the victims of domestic violence by enforcing three major components, legal measures, preventive measures and protective measures. The T.S.S.S.S being appointed by the Government as the District Service provider against domestic violence has been actively involved in enquiries and counselling for rescue and rehabilitation of the violence of domestic violence\textsuperscript{10}. The protection officer, social welfare officer

\textsuperscript{8} TSS India, op.cit, P.12.  
\textsuperscript{9} Ibid, p.13  
\textsuperscript{10} Annual Report, 2010-2011 of TSSS PP.45-47.
family counselling centre counsellor and the TSSS provider are the team members of the Domestic Violence Act. This team enquires the petitions\textsuperscript{11} and the respondent and find out the truth from their enquiries. The team will visit the houses and prepare the direct enquiry report. They submit the petition to the court. If both the parties, the husband and wife are willing to live together they are reconciled. If not rehabilitation measures for the security and protection of the affected women are ensured based on the fact finding.\textsuperscript{12}

**Educational Services**

Education of the children is the foundation for the overall development of any nation. With this aim in view the Tirunelveli Social Service Society has begun the Non-Formal Education as an initial measure. The TSSS has now 17 Non-Formal Education centres with 544 children\textsuperscript{13}. These non formal Education centres are known as Balwadis. Balwadis have been functioning in remote

\textsuperscript{11} TSSS, op.cit, P.13.
\textsuperscript{12} Interview with S.Joseph John, Director TSSS on 26.11.2012.
\textsuperscript{13} Interview with M.Jeyaraj Coordinator, TSSS on 26.11.2012.
villages where the Government does not have Anganwadis. Special training are offered to Balwadi teachers\textsuperscript{14}. The Non-Formal Education centres offer literary and life coping skills through play way methods, experimental learning exposure visits and competitions\textsuperscript{15}.

In addition to Non-Formal Education, the TSSS has organized formal education also. Vinnarasi Industrial School was started in 1988 to impart vocational training to the rural boys and girls. Likewise, Valanar Academy of vocational training centre was established on 3\textsuperscript{rd} July 1996 at Kuruvikulam. In 1998 a Community College affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University was started by the TSSS at V.M.Chatram\textsuperscript{16}.

**Health Promotion**

Health is essential for happy living and yet the availability of proper health is a crucial question in the present day-to-day life. Hence the TSSS accords top priority to health issues in general and

\textsuperscript{14} TSSS India, op.cit, P.14.
\textsuperscript{15} Annual Report of TSSS, PP 45-47.
\textsuperscript{16} Ibid, P.48.
prevention of HIV and AIDS in particular\textsuperscript{17}. Its significance lays in the promotion of indigenous medicine. The TSSS has opened an exclusive treatment and production for Siddha medicines at Sankarancoil.\textsuperscript{18} There is also an outlet for sale of Siddha medicines at Palayamkotai. The TSSS also facilitates operation of dispensaries at remote villages where nuns attend to minor and basic ailments. The TSSS is highly assisted by the Catholic Diocese of Palayamkottai. The Diocese has 19 dispensaries. The TSSS sends all these patients to any one of the dispensaries and get them cured.\textsuperscript{19} The TSSS sensitizes the public and high risk groups on HIV and AIDS prevention, care and support. It includes mass rally, focus group discussions, sensitization of school teachers and students. It has also built a care and support centre at V.M.Chatram in Palayamkottai for persons living with HIV and AIDS.\textsuperscript{20} With the support of Manos Unidas in Spain the TSSS has been implementing

\textsuperscript{17} Interview with Joseph Johnson, director, TSS on 26-11-2012.
\textsuperscript{18} Pamphlet issued by TSSS – 2012.
\textsuperscript{19} Interview with Jeyaraj, Coordinator TSSS-2012.
\textsuperscript{20} Pamphlet issued by TSSS-op.cit.
HIV and AIDS prevention, care and support initiatives since September 2008.

When natural and man made calamities occur the TSSS extends a helping hand to the affected victims\textsuperscript{21}. In addition to rescue operations relief measures such as providing protective clothes, provisions and basic utensils are provided. Livelihood support is rendered in cash or kind. In the recent past, flood and fire victims have been assisted in shelter improvement and agricultural operations.

**Economic Development**

Poor people have very limited resources. They toil ceaselessly, lead poverty stricken life and again leave a feeble generation. The experiences of the TSSS has proved that micro credit is one of the powerful tools to alleviate poverty among the poor\textsuperscript{22}. The micro credit programme was organized by Caritas organisation of Sweden in 2005 and it extended its full support to

\textsuperscript{21} Pamphlet issued by TSSS. Op., Cit.,
\textsuperscript{22} TSSS INIDA, op.cit, P.15.
the TSSS. Micro – credit is a small loan given to the poor people to encourage self-employment projects that can generate income and raise their standard of living. In order to manage the revolving fund efficiently a Regional Micro Credit Society\textsuperscript{23} has been formed.

The rules and regulations for loan disbursement and repayment have been evolved. Regional Micro Credit Society is fully managed by the federation leaders with the guidance and support of Tirunelveli Social Service Society.\textsuperscript{24} The Regional Micro Credit Society has disbursed a loan amount of Rs.1534000 to 223 beneficiaries for income generation initiatives. These loans are advanced as per the following schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. N.</th>
<th>Purpose of the loan</th>
<th>Number of Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Loan Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Rearing cows</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>940000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Goat rearing</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>235000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Charcoal Preparation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{23} TSSS INIDA, op.cit, P.16.
\textsuperscript{24} Personal Interview with Durairaj, Programme Manager TSSS on 26-11-2012.
The slum people are the worst affected due to the exorbitant rate of interest by money lenders and finance companies. To redeem them from the clutches of such anti-social elements, the TSSS offers credit facilities to the deserving women to take up income generation activities to meet their household expenses.

The Tirunelveli Social Service Society familiarly known as TSSS has been thus doing meritorious services in the enhancement of the lives of the poverty stricken multitudes especially women and children. Under the patronage of the Catholic Diocese of Palayamkottai, the TSSS has allotted funds for the economic development of the poor people of the Tirunelveli area.
2. Social Change and Development Organisation (SCAD)

Origin

The Social Change and Development Organization founded in 1985 is a committed Non-Governmental Organisation working for the deprived and underprivileged of Tirunelveli, Thuththukidi and Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu. Social change and Development Organisation familiarly known as SCAD works for the saltpan workers, small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural labourers, people with different needs, gypsies, snake catchers, people infected by leprosy and orphan elders of this region.

A humanitarian, Dr. S. Cletus Babu was the founder and Chairman of SCAD. He emerged as a social worker after serving as a Catholic priest for seven years in South Tamil Nadu. He started his rural development service at Cheranmahadevi in 1985. Cheranmahadevi is a village located close to Kalakad, the wild life

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25 S. Cletus Babu – Managing Director's Pamphlet circulated in 2009.
sanctuary in Tiruneveli District of Tamilnadu. After completing 25 years this organisation has expanded to serve 500000 people of the three Districts, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kanyakumari²⁶.

With a small group of friends, with thin purse Cletus Babu selected five small surrounding villages of Cheranmahadevi as their virgin intervention for progress. He, with his group, observed the conditions of life in the villages²⁷, listened to the silent painful voices of the oppressed and suppressed people who were soaked in poverty. The more the development pioneers listened to the deeper they got committed towards making a positive change in the lines of the people. The vision was great and the mission was humane.

The vision of SCAD has always been 'to reach the unreached'.²⁸ In reaching those who are downtrodden and left behind by a country, SCAD strives to contribute to a

²⁸ Appendix II.
underdeveloped nations where all people benefit and rural communities will be self sufficient\textsuperscript{29}.

The Mission of SCAD is, go to the people, love them, live among them, learn from them, build on what they have. With just 300 rupees in his pocket, Cletus Babu headed for Cheranmahadevi, an area of Tirunelveli where poverty was apparent\textsuperscript{30}. With a few of his friends Cletus started the work on a simple basis. They mingled with the common people and gradually they came to understand the problems of the people and were able to suggest the values of community awareness and offer insightful teachings\textsuperscript{31}. In 1986 Cletus Babu received support from a charity mission called 'Action Aid' which has its base in Bangalore\textsuperscript{32}.

Cletus Babu was very particular to have an orphanage where the destitute children could be accommodated. Salt of the Earth is a Charity Mission centre in England\textsuperscript{33}. This mission possessed a

\begin{footnotes}

\item Let My Country Awake – Book released by Dr.A.P.J.Abulkalam on his visit to SCAD on 22.09.2006, P.1
\item Ibid, P.2.
\item Ibid, P.3.
\item Ibid P.3.
\item Scad Society, Pamphlet circulated in 2002, Radhapuram, Tirunelveli, P.10.
\end{footnotes}
barren land in Cheranmahadevi\textsuperscript{34}. ‘Salt of the Earth charity mission' founder Murray Frankland met Cletus Babu while he was touring South India in 1989.

The British missionary Murray Frankland agreed to give the barren land in Cheranmahadevi to Cletus. But the missionary laid down the condition that the entire price of the barren land in Cheranmahadevi should be paid by Cletus within six months\textsuperscript{35}. The entire amount was paid by another charitable organization, "the Gorta' from Ireland\textsuperscript{36}. SCAD had obtained the barren land, built an accommodation centre for the destitutes.

Having gained permission and encouragement from the Church, Cletus left the priesthood and continued his work. Meanwhile he met Amali, a dedicated social worker and was impressed with the work she was doing with tribal people in Kanyakumari District\textsuperscript{37}. They got married in 1988 and started on their venture to make a lasting and substantial change in the lives of

\textsuperscript{34} Let my country Awake, op.cit, P.5.
\textsuperscript{35} Let my country Awake, op.cit, P.6.
\textsuperscript{36} Scad society, op.cit, P.11.
\textsuperscript{37} Let my Country Awake, op.cit. P.6.
those living in the Southern parts of TamilNadu. Not content with rural development Cletus and Amali wanted to provide quality education to the rural youth. In 1989 the first SCAD school was established. While the rural children were benefitted by a quality education their communities were also benefited. The nominal fees collected from the school was utilized for rural development activities\textsuperscript{38}.

**Growth of SCAD**

Education – As a first measure the SCAD started working with five remote rural villages in Cheranmahadevi block in Tirunelveli District\textsuperscript{39}. In 1989 focus was given to primary education and gradually the SCAD activists under the guidance of Cletus Babu expanded their work in the thirty four nearby villages\textsuperscript{40} and thirty four supplementary schools were started. The school drop outs in these areas were encouraged and supported to re-enroll themselves and continue their school education.

\textsuperscript{38} Let my Country Awake, op.cit, P.6.
\textsuperscript{39} SCAD – Social Change and Development, op.cit.P.10.
\textsuperscript{40} SCAD – Social charge and Development, op.cit., P.10.
After successful implementation of school education the SCAD decided to move forward to set up Community College, Industrial Training Institute, Professional Colleges and technical institutions. so as to provide rural students access to quality education. In addition to this, Nursing, Electronics, Information Technology, Civil Engineering Mechanical Engineering, and printing technology have been provided by SCAD to the students who come from rural background. At present nearly 9000 students are studying in these institutions. Every year nearly 3000 rural youth including men and women get trained and employed in various sectors and their economic conditions are highly improved.

In 1989 the first SCAD Secondary school was started in Tirunelveli. In 1996 the SCAD founded Industrial training Institute, Polytechnic College and the Community college in Cheranmahadevi. In 2000 the SCAD developed a Higher Secondary College to provide vocational training for rural youth.

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41 SCAD – Social charge and Development, op.cit, P.11.
42 Ibid.
43 SCAD SOCIETY, Op, cit, P.3.
Communities. In addition to these Non-Formal school for gypsy community was also opened. In 2005 a Teacher Training Institute was opened at Cheranmahadevi. SCAD has been enacting educational pursuits for the benefit of the destitute, rural community and the Orphans.

**SCAD with Saltpan Workers**

One of the most important milestones of the SCAD journey has been the organization of those working in precarious conditions of the saltpans which are situated in the coastal villages of Tamil Nadu. The salt pan work can only be operational if the sun shines. The Salt pan workers are working in the heat of the scorching sun. Radiation and light reflection from the salt causes many eye disorders including cataracts. Working barefoot in the salt pan area also causes foot ulcers that do not heal easily due to repeated exposure to salt water.

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At the end of 1988 SCAD was highly moved by seeing the pathetic living condition of the saltpan workers. SCAD felt the need to intervene in the lives of these people due to their poor Socio-economic status and the condition of ill health. These saltpan workers are very desperate. Owng to financial crisis even children below the age of eight were forced to work in the salt packing work so as to pay back the money borrowed from the salt pan owners and money lenders for all exorbitant rate of interest.

Hence SCAD started supplying sun glass to protect their eyes from radiation. SCAD conducts many eye camps and eye surgery has also been done to selected people in collaboration with local hospitals\textsuperscript{45}. Women in salt pans are the most sufferers, as they carry salt basket from saltpans to the storage places. Each basket weighs around 30 kilograms and this has to be carried by women. Normally women carry hundreds of such baskets every day. As a result they suffer from spinal problems, arthritis and loss of hair.

\textsuperscript{45} SCAD, op.cit, P.13.
SCAD started health programmes to the salt pan workers. The activists erected small sheds for the salt pan workers to take rest. Periodical eye camps were organised and conducted in these sheds. Saving schemes were started by the activists for the saltpan workers so as to clear their debt. SCAD also started supplementary schools for salt pan workers’ children and the drop out ratio was considerably reduced. In 1992 a formal school was started for saltpan children in Rajapandinagar.

**Intervention with Gypsy Community**

Gypsies are nomadic in nature. Traditionally they are hunters and craftsmen. They lived in small shift tents and resided near Pettai railway station in Tirunelveli. They move from place to place. Hence their children lose the chance of attending school. In 1987 SCAD started working with this community who are less sociable with normal people and are very tough to handle. As an initial step the SCAD wanted to educate them. So the SCAD

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started a non formal education centre in the Gypsy centre in Pettai\textsuperscript{48} and appointed a full time staff to educate the Gypsy children.

Their health problems are multifarious. Infant mortality is common among the gypsy group. They resort to early marriages. Most of the gypsy girls are affected due to malnutrition and anemia. Normally girls of the gypsy community are getting married at the age of 10 or 12 and boys are getting married at the age of 15 or 16. Providing facilities for the gypsies was a huge task for the SCAD. In 1992 SCAD started a formal school for gypsy community. Now nearly 200 children are undergoing formal education\textsuperscript{49}. Most of them have completed primary education and a few go for secondary schools. They are also guided by the SCAD to get franchise and ration cards as every common man of India is entitled to have. Now the SCAD has formed 3 women Self Help Groups and 2 men groups in Gypsy colony.

\textsuperscript{48} SCAD, op.cit, P.12.
\textsuperscript{49} SCAD, op.cit,P.12.
Working with Leprosy

SCAD started working with the leprosy affected since 1987. Leprosy patients are often considered as untouchables and they are isolated by the general public due to their complexity of illness and their deformed appearance. They are prevented to have a normal life. So they are prone to beg near the railway station, bus stations and temples. These people need continuous treatment and care as most of the patients have incurable sores and due to climate charges they face difficult situations due to the chronic nature of their illness but the available facilities are too meagre to meet their health needs.  

After seeing the pitiable condition of these lebers sufferers, Cletus Babu started a community base in Sathyanagar near Pettai in Tirunelveli. A small health centre was also started in 1990. SCAD thought it was very important to provide housing facility to these neglected people because all of them are homeless and they sleep only in public places. Hence 35 small thatched houses were put up

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50 SCAD, pamphlet circulated on the 25th anniversary of SCAD, S.Cletus Babu.2014.
in the beginning and these houses were later on built into roofed houses. At present Sathyanagar has 54 permanent houses and 16 thatched houses. Their health conditions have improved and their children are studying the SCAD school at Pettai.

**Achievements of SCAD**

High infant mortality prevailed in Cheranmahadevi area due to ignorance and poverty of the people who lived in this area. So in 1988 SCAD started 5 rural health centres in 36 villages surrounding Cheranmahadevi. SCAD promotes indigenous medicinal practices through promoting kitchen and herbal gardens. Women are given training in the preparation of home made medicines. Special camps like eye camps, dental camps, ortho camps are conducted in these villages. Children with deficiencies are identified through these camps and nutrition supplements are provided to these children. The SCAD also provides mobile medical service. The SCAD health team with physicians visit the rural villages in turn basis and provide medical service to the poor.
The SCAD has expanded its activity towards the improvement of the life of the snake charmers. Snake charmers are traditionally hunters and they belong to tribal communing. SCAD has been working with this community for the past 23 years. There are 22 families living in Pettai, a village near Tirunelveli. Due to the nature of the job, snake charmers are nomads. They do not stay in a place for too long. Hence their children do not undergo schooling. SCAD provides housing and schooling facilities for them. Women Self Help Groups are organised to improve their economic conditions.

Likewise people especially women working in the quarries of the Thuthukudi area are experiencing terrible condition of exploitation. They crack the granite in the scorching heat of the day. But they get meager income. After seeing the deplorable conditions of the quarry workers the SCAD came to their rescue. In 1992 the SCAD organised Self Help Groups to help the poor people of the quarries.
SCAD has come to the rescue of the elderly persons also. Elderly persons are considered to be burdensome and hence many elderly persons are abandoned by their family members. SCAD is very sensitive to this issue and it supports 700 elderly persons, both men and women by providing stipend to them. To encourage the psychological mental makeup of the elderly persons the SCAD celebrates the world elders day in a grand manner.\textsuperscript{51}

In 1990 the SCAD conducted a survey in Tirunelveli District and it found out that nearly 10\% of the children are differently abled. To support these children SCAD started a treatment centre in Cherenmahadevi. Physiotherapy and oil massage are given to these children. Ortho camps and awareness programmes on disability prevention were organised. In 1993 a small school was started at Cherenmahadevi campus exclusively for the physically challenged. At present 100 inmates are benefitted from this centre.

SCAD has been diving into any sort of human disasters like fire, flood, drought and other natural calamities like the fatal

\textsuperscript{51} SCAD, op.cit, P.30.
Tsunami. SCAD has been working for the integrated development of more than 500000 rural people especially women and children.

Water security schemes are being implemented by the SCAD. Drinking water is a scarce commodity in the dry regions of Thuthukudi District. SCAD with the collaboration of villages and Government Departments restore and renovate traditional water harvesting structures in the villages. More than 100 irrigation tanks and drinking water Ooranies (ponds) are renovated by the SCAD. Farm ponds and check dams are constructed by the SCAD to retain rain water. Percolation tanks are also dug up by the SCAD. Rainwater harvesting is developed in the schools. Altogether 113 percolation water tanks have been promoted by the SCAD.

Another step taken up by the SCAD is the progress of women. Women are motivated to form groups. 2500 women Self Help Groups have been formed so far by the initiatives of SCAD. There are 50000 women members in these groups. The total

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52 SCAD, P.19.
53 S. Cletus Babu, SCAD, Pamphlet op.cit.,
54 Ibid.
savings of these 2500 women Self Help Group is estimated at rupees 114.9 million. They advance loans to the members of the Self Help Groups. Altogether 136.8 million rupees have been advanced as loans. A sum of Rupees 11.8 million is organized from the Banks to take up income generation activities. More than 5000 women have been engaged in works like saree weaving, mat weaving. Pottery making, paper cup manufacturing, shoes and sandals making, running small shops and public telephone booths. Hiring Cycle lending shops are also promoted. A Bank known as 'Surabhi' Women's bank is also promoted under the patronage of SCAD. Nearly 10 million rupees is available as revolving fund. More than 1000 women are members in the 'Surabhi Bank'.

SCAD concentrates on agricultural activities also. Organised farming, Vermi Compost unit, bio fertilizer and pesticide promotion, alternate agricultural practices like nursery raising, tree planting, mushroom cultivation are also highly developed by SCAD. To promote animal husbandry activities and improving the

\[55\] Ibid.

\[56\] S. Cletus Babu, 'SCAD', op.cit.
cattle population SCAD conducts veterinary camps, veterinary health service, goat rearing and fresh water fish rearing\textsuperscript{57}.

SCAD also promotes charcoal production from prosopis juliflora which is abundantly found in this region. SCAD also envisages renewable energy sources like wind energy, solar energy and bio-gas promotion through its programmes\textsuperscript{58}. In 2010 the Social change and Development of Non-Government Organisation celebrated its Silver Jubilee Celebration.

With in a short span of twenty years the SCAD has grown up into a mighty organization helping all the people. The poor destitutes, sick people, aged ones and forsaken women are being completely protected by the activities of the SCAD. SCAD is always extending its best through its meticulously planned programmes to cater to the needs of the huge masses of rural people especially the farming community to be effectively and meaningfully trained to make farming and its allied occupations productive and remunerative so as to enable them to live better in society.

\textsuperscript{57} S. Cletus Babu, 'SCAD', op.cit.
\textsuperscript{58} S. Cletus Babu, 'SCAD', op.cit.
3. Arumbugal Trust

GENESIS

Arumbugal Trust is a registered development organization for the development of children and women in the rural and remote areas of South Tamil Nadu since 1987. The Tamil word 'ARUMBUGAL' means 'Floral Buds' which means the preparedness for growth and ready to face a better status. In human life it implies preparing for happy and healthy charges in terms of health, education and economic development. The vision of Arumbugal Non-Governmental Organisation is, 'enchanting the quality in the life of children and women by ensuring all round development. Its mission is making a difference in the lives of children and women by organizing, generating awareness, capacity building and facilitating access to sources towards collective self-reliance.

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59 Appendix III.
60 Latha Mathivanan, Director, Arumbugal Trust, Pamphlet, Sundaravali Vilasam Press, Pulani 2012.
The registered office of 'Arumbugal Trust', the Non-Governmental Organisation is located at Maharajanagar in Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli. The initial step for the establishment of 'Arumbugal Trust was taken by P.Thinepathi in 1987. Since then this Non-Governmental Organisation has begun to involve itself in multifarious activities in helping the poverty-stricken multitudes.\textsuperscript{61} The Arumbugal Trust has its jurisdiction in thirteen units within Tirunelveli District. Arumbugal Non-Governmental Organisation Maanoor has rendered services in Palayamkottai, Vasudhevanallur, Alankulam, Cheranmahadevi, Kalakkad, Nanguneri, Vallioor and Radhapuram.

**Objectives**

The Arumbugal Non-Governmental Organization functions with certain prime objectives. The Arumbugal Trust has the utmost desire to facilitate the growth and development of children through integrated child development programmes. It has the aim to

\textsuperscript{61} Personal Interview, V.Latha Mathivaanan, Director Tirunelveli N.G.O. dated 28.11.2012.
organize and federate women and impart skills towards socio-economic self-reliance. This Non-Governmental Organisation tries to explore and initiate alternatives to tackle issues affecting the health and development of the children and women. The Arumbugal Trust wishes to promote an optimal eco-system by motivating people for afforestation and to preserve the natural resources.

Achievements

The Arumbugal N.G.O. has empowered women towards social and economic development through the formation of women Self Help Groups. Since 2011 totally 818 women Self Help Groups have been formed and guided successfully. These Self-Help Groups are co-opted together to be known as Mahalir Thittam (plan of women) Arumbugal Trust provides needful support by imparting knowledge on conducting group meetings and helps the Self Help

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62 Arumbugal, Pamphlet issued by Latha Manoharan Director of Arumbugal.
63 Private Circulation pamphlet issued by Latha Mathivaanan, 2012.
Groups to have contact with Banks and other departments for the benefit of self employment.

The Arumbugal unit with the aim to promote health empowerment among women has facilitated the Arumbugal Sugam Napkin Unit\textsuperscript{64}. By the well trained and skilled technicians best quality napkins are produced and marketed to by the Self Help Groups at the instigation of Arumbugal Trust to the maternity hospitals at low cost.

The Arumbugal Trust is very particular about the environmental factors of the Tirunelveli area. The Trust joins hands with the District Forest Department in planting trees Pregnant Women are directed by the Trust to have regular medical check in the Primary Health Centre. The Trust creates awareness among women and children about the dangerous effects of HIV and AIDS. The Trust supplies medicines to Women regularly to prevent the spreading of AIDS.

\textsuperscript{64} Personal Interview with P.Tirupathi – Arumbugal Trust Finance Manager on 28.11.2012.
Arumbugal Trust always believes that health is wealth. Healthy environment is necessary for human beings to live in this world. To create awareness and make people involved in the evolution of healthy environment a one day workshop was conducted on 5-6-2010, the World Environment day. The theme of the workshop was 'marine conservation'. Fifty participants from Self Help Groups, students, rural youth and staff gained awareness by this programme.

Approximately one third of the world population is infected by tuberculosis and at the risk of developing this disease. To create an awareness about tuberculosis an awareness camp was conducted at the Arumbugal Campus in Thirunelveli on 24\textsuperscript{th} March 2011. Mr.Mohemed Ali, from Tirunelveli Medical College gave a special lecture about tuberculosis.

Arumbugal joined its hands with free legal aid and organized the AIDS Day at the Deaf School at Tirunelvlei on December 1,

\footnote{Interview with. Latha Mathivanan,45, Director of Arumbugal Trust, aged  on 28.11.2012.}
The District Collector, the District judge, Additional Superintendent of Police took part in this programme. 150 Self Help Groups participated in this programme.

Water is the most precious matter on earth. The need for fresh water resources is increasing in this fast growing world. To bring out the importance of fresh water management among the rural people, Arumbugal Trust conducted an awareness programme at Reddiarpatti in Tirunelveli. One hundred participants took part in this campaign. In this campaign which was conducted at Reddiarpatti on 22.3.2011 the participants gained knowledge about how to preserve fresh water resources like ponds and tanks.

The need of the moment in today's fast growing technocratic world is the preservation of Earth and its resources. Arumbugal Trust organized a special programme at Melakarai village in Tirunelveli. One Hundred women from local Self Help Groups participated in this awareness campaign. The participants acquired

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66 Interview with P. Thiruppathi, Furnace Manager aged 50, on 28.11.2012.
awareness about the causes and effects of deforestation and global warming.

With the aim of creating awareness on legal access among public, District Legal Aid Authority and Arumbugal Trust jointly facilitated Free legal Aid Campaign at Kunnathoor in Tirunelveli between 2010 and 2011. More than 4000 participated in this programme. The District Collector and the Chief functionaries felicitated these programmes and they explained the available free legal aid. The participants were asked to give spot petitions for their legal issues.

Climate change and poverty are serious challenges and issues to the earth and the people. The climatic changes create more damages in temperature. It has increased the frequency duration and intensity of extreme weather events like flood, drought and heatwaves. Taking this into account, this year Arumbugal Trust being one of field level Non-Governmental Organisation partners of earth net conducted a training programmes for the co-ordinators,
staff and Self Help Groups. The participants gained awareness about Global warming and its effects.

In 2010 with the primary aim of driving out HIV and AIDS from Tirunelveli District many awareness programmes were organized by Arumbugal. It is indispensable that every one should understand that HIV and AIDS are not only a health issue but also a social issue. Arumbugal Trust has been conducting cultural programmes to create awareness on HIV and AIDS.

In 2011 Arumbugal Trust conducted many awareness programmes with the support of St. Luke's children Development Centre in Thuththukudi. 2500 people gained awareness. With the support of St. Thomas Children Development Centre in Nazareth 5000 participants in the villages adjacent to Nazareth gained awareness.

The Arumbugal Non-Governmental Organisation has close contacts with TamilNadu women's Development Corporation which is functioning in Tirunelveli. Likewise, on so many occasions
the Indian Over Seas Bank in Tirunelveli has come forward to help the Self Help Groups patronised by the Arumbugal. The Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Directorate of Social Welfare Department and the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society have all been of much help for the progressive steps taken by the Arumbugal Trust.

The Arumbugal Non-Governmental Organisation has certain future plans to enhance the better life of the rural community in Tirunelveli. They are likely to champion the cause of life skill education centre for children and adolescents. In future, there should be the promotion of a women's bank. The Arumbugal Trust has been trying to found a bank exclusively for women to be operated by women. The Trust also plans for the establishment of a Women resource centre. A society that forgets its tradition will not have any growth. On the basis of this state the Arumbugal Trust has been planning to found a Resource and Training Centre for performing and developing artistic talents of the children and the adolescent.
4. Saranalayam

Origin

Saranalayam is a Non-Governmental Organisation started in Tirunelveli for the protection of run away children from their homes. The word 'Saranalayam' in Tamil means sanctuary. Saranalayam was started in 1993 to intervene in the issue of street children, thrown away babies, and destitute women who are stranded at the streets of Tirunelveli Town, one among the southern most districts in Tamil Nadu in India.

In January 1993, a survey was started in the streets of Tirunelveli regarding the life of the children, stranded women and the destitutes. The awesome conditions of the poor people who lived along the platforms of Tirunelveli roads and platforms influenced the activists to found an organization to redress the grievances of poverty stricken multitudes. The initial survey of the society was undertaken by the Palayamkottai Diocese. 

I. Appendix IV.
of Palayamkottai Diocese took the initiative to conduct the survey\textsuperscript{67}. After the survey a rehabilitation centre was started for the street children in a rented building at Kailasapuram in Tirunelveli city. Initially 35 children stayed in the shelter\textsuperscript{68}. The number of children coming to the centre increased day by day. The rented building in Kailasapuram was insufficient to accommodate the growing strength. Hence the necessity of finding a more spacious building to accommodate the growing strength became indispensable. The social activists sponsored by the Palayamkottai Diocese began to get monetary benefits from various sources.

The Tirunelveli Social Service Society, the parental social organization of 'Saranalayam' bought the land for the building\textsuperscript{69} and the cost of the building was met by one Andheri Hilfe from Bonn in Germany\textsuperscript{70} The new building was inaugurated on 3\textsuperscript{rd} September in 1996. The office of the 'Saranalayam was shifted to the new

\textsuperscript{67} Saranalayam, Pamphlet, P.3.
\textsuperscript{68} Ibid, P.1.
\textsuperscript{69} Ibid, P.2.
\textsuperscript{70} Ibid, P.7.
building that day itself. Saranalayam functions as one of the development units of Tirunelveli Social Service Society.

**Vision of Saranalayam**

Saranalayam has a vision of a world where all people especially babies, children and women are ensured of basic human rights for survival, protection, development and participation in all the aspects.

**Mission of Saranalayam**

Saranalayam aims at sustained efforts to rescue, capacitate, rehabilitate and build up meaningful partnership with the babies, children and women in distress and work in collaboration with other similar initiatives to make policy changes for preventive and protective measures.

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71 Ibid, P.2.
72 Pamphlet issued by the Director, Saranalayam.
Objectives of Saranalayam

- The Saranalayam has the strong conviction to prevent infanticide, protect babies from dangerous situations and rehabilitate them.
- The Saranalayam is motivated to prevent child labour and child abuse and rehabilitate them.
- The Saranalayam envisages to capacitate and facilitate women in distress especially mothers, destitutes and women in sex work for their rehabilitation and empowerment.
- The Saranalayam has the aim to work with the public, civil society groups and Government agencies to protect and empower babies, children and women.

Growth and Activities of Saranalayam

The prime aim of Saranalayam is to rehabilitate the children who are abandoned. Babies are abandoned either in the hospitals or on the platforms. This heartless step is taken by mothers because

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73 Ibid. P.2.
the children would have been born due to illicit relationships. In certain other cases differently abled children are also left uncared for. Owing to broken families also the children become orphans. In certain homes due to the harsh treatment of step mothers the children ran away from their homes.

Such babies are rescued and taken care of by Saranalayam a Non-Governmental Organisation. Saranalayam has started homes for the street boys. It has also constructed shelter for new born babies and destituted women.

**Shelter Home for Street Babies, Boys and Women**

Children found on the streets without any help are rescued by Saranalayam volunteers. A separate wing known as "Vidiyal Counselling Centre" functions with Saranalayam. This Counselling Centre rescues the abandoned children. These children are cared and they are reared by the Vidiyal Counselling Centre. Certain parents are not bestowed with the gift of offspring. Such parents

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74 Interview with Fr.M.Motcharajan, Director Saranalayam, on 24-10-2012.
are benefited by the Vidiyal Counselling Centre. With the permission of the Government the childless couples are permitted to adopt the babies rescued by Saranalayam\textsuperscript{75}. Once the babies are handed over on adoption, the Saranalayam follows up the activities of the couple as to the life progress of the child.

Saranalayam Vidiyal Counselling Centre tries to reunite the abandoned children with their family. If reunion is not possible the Vidiyal Counselling Centre admits them in schools and trains them in technical skills\textsuperscript{76}. Saranalayam has an operating child line. The number of the operating child line is 1098. If anybody rings this number immediately the volunteers would come and rescue operations would commence. This voluntary service of the Vidiyal Counselling Centre functions round the clock\textsuperscript{77}. The run away children are given counselling services. The students who are sent to schools are also financially helped.

\textsuperscript{75} Interview with M.A. Nelson, Co ordinator, Saranalayam on 12.12.2012. 
\textsuperscript{76} Rev. Fr. M.Motcharayan., op.cit. P. 120. 
\textsuperscript{77} Ibid. P. 90.
Such students are given medical help. They are also motivated to concentrate on their attention on studies. At times parents come and report about the lost children. The Saranalayam volunteers immediately make arrangements to find out the lost children through Networking. Educational facilities are also provided to the rescued sex workers and their children\(^{78}\). All the children are taken care of till they attain the age of 18.

At 18 girls are given in marriage and the entire expenditure of the marriage is borne by the Saranalayam. Boys after 19 are asked to go for jobs. Saranalayam contacts wealthy people and asks for creating employment for the boys. Many are employed in shops, and a sufficient number has become drivers and mechanics. Those boys who fare well in studies are sent to higher studies. To send the boys to higher studies the Saranalayam seeks the help of rich persons. To cater to the needs of these babies, boys, girls and women the Government contributes 75\% of the total expenditure and the rest 25\% has to be borne by Saranalayam. Certain boys

come from other states. Such run away boys are also taken care of by Saranalayam and the parents of the boys concerned are informed and handed over to their parents\textsuperscript{79}.

**Impact of the Services of Saranalayam**

Saranalayam has prevented more than 3000 boys and girls from becoming anti-social elements\textsuperscript{80} and these boys and girls have a better future in partnership with the sponsors of Saranalayam. Rotary and Lions club members, shop keepers and hotel owners and auto rickshaw drivers have become volunteers of Saranalayam. On many occasions the inmates of Saranalayam are supplied with food by the well wishers. Life education for the youth has enabled them to face the problem of life with self-confidence. Counselling and rehabilitation has prevented suicides. Youth groups spend their time in our shelter children and encourage them through entertainment programmes\textsuperscript{81}.

\textsuperscript{79} Saranalayam, Pamphlet, P.4
\textsuperscript{80} Ibid, P.5.
\textsuperscript{81} Rev.Fr.M.Mohana Rajan, op.cit. P.99.
As a consequence of the services and popularity of Saranalayam, the areas of operation of Saranalayam has considerably enlarged. The important places where Saranalayam has extended its operations are Palayamkottai, Meenakshipuram, Sindhupoondurai, Kailasapuram, Tirunelveli city, Thatchanallur, Thalayoothu, Sankaranagar, Gangaikondan, Vannarappettai, Melapalayam, Veinthankulam, Perumalpuram and NGO Colony\textsuperscript{82}.

Many sponsors have also come forward to extend financial assistance to the Saranalayam. The prominent sponsors are the Diocese of Palayamkottai, Andheri Hilfe from Bonn in Germany, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India and the Department of Social Defence, Government of Tamil Nadu. With the financial assistance of these organisations and well wishers the Saranalayam has been doing meritorious services in rehabilitating the abandoned babies, run away boys and destitute women and girls.

\textsuperscript{82} Saranalayam, Pamphlet issued by Director, o.p. cit, P.4.
5. PURATCHI TRUST

Puratchi is a Tamil word which stands for revolution. Puratchi Trust means a Trust with revolutionary ideals. Puratchi Trust is a Non-Governmental Organisation which was started in 2003 in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu for the upliftment of economically and educationally backward people. The office of the Puratchi Trust functions at Pettai in Tirunelveli District. The Trust has its activities in Manoor, Cheranmahadevi, Pappakudi and Tirunelveli. It has the vision of bringing a holistic development in the society. Its mission is to enable and empower the backward women and children. The Trust visualizes equality in education, in administrative power and social status and to pursue economically sustainable developments.

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Objectives

This Non-Governmental Organisation, the Puratchi Trust wishes to establish training centres for creating sustainable employment opportunities and skill development on nursing\textsuperscript{84} training, tailoring, agro industries, organic farming, eco-friendly material productions. The Trust ensures self employment to the poor village women by providing financial assistance through micro credit societies and flexible banking system. The Trust envisages people to be aware of the environmental pollution. The Trust aims at the preservation of natural resources for the present and future generations. The Trust has the idea of the well being of the dalit women and children. The Trust intends to conduct free computer education to the students below poverty line. With these objectives in view the Non-Governmental Organisation, "The Puratchi Trust" moves on with the high expectation of doing good to the helpless women and children\textsuperscript{85}.

\textsuperscript{84} Ibid, P.2.
\textsuperscript{85} Annual Report, op.cit, P.5.
Achievements

The primary aim of Puratchi Trust has been concentrated in the upliftment of women. With that intention women Self Help Groups were organized. The work of organizing the women Self Help Group was started in 2003. The ceaseless efforts of the Puratchi Trust resulted in the expansion of 575 Self Help Groups in 2011. These 575 Self Help Groups have been linked with Nationalised Banks so as to get loans. The Trust provides free computer Training for youth. In 2010, 60 college students were given computer training. Tailoring skill and embroidery training skill for women have been provided. In 2009 Tuberculosis awareness campaign was carried out by this Non-Governmental Organisation with the assistance of Tirunelveli District administration.

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86 B.Poonkodi, Director, Puratchi Trust, interview on 20-11-2012.
Children Welfare Programmes

The Trust has initiative to minimize school drop out children in the Tirunelveli District. The Trust has been taking door step survey about the children who are drop outs from school and an extensive survey has been carried out with all sincerity about the children who are being forced into child labour. After the survey the Trust informs the particulars to the concerned school Education Department and the District administration respectively for necessary and immediate actions. In addition to this the Trust provides detailed information to the public about the evils of child labour and absentees in schools through circulation of pamphlets and staging dramas in the streets of Tiruneveli city and the suburban areas. The Trust arranges discussions among students regarding the problems of bonded labour and drop outs from schools. These discussions also encourage the students to go to the schools again. Government has also been much interested in this kind of discussions of children. It so happened that on 10.11.2010,

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88 S.N.Saravanan, Financial Trustee of the Puratchi Trust Interview on 20.2.2013.
S.S. Ramasubbu, M.P initiated and participated in discussions which were carried on among students. Such kinds of participation on the part of the Government machinery highly encourages the drop out students who again develop a sense of confidence. Karisalkulam, a village in Tirunelveli District has much involvement in participating in such kinds of discussion and the people of this area are highly awakened over the issue of bonded labour.

**Employment Skill Training Programme**

Unemployment is the biggest problem in the modern society especially for the rural youth and women. Hence the Puratchi Trust has started various skill development training programme for the most deserving youths and women in Tirunelveli District.

In Triunelveli there are many Beedi (Indian Cigarette filled with tobacco flakes) manufacturing companies and thousands of workers are employed in the beedi companies. The process of beedi preparation is highly injurious to health. Many women who

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are employed in beedi companies are susceptible to diseases like cancer and spinal card problems. Contrary to this the beedi workers are low paid. To avoid this kind of abominable diseases the Puratchi Trust tries to whisk these employees from beedi preparation works to some other jobs. Hence these employees are given substitute job training programmes by the Trust.  

Women are given training for the preparation of woollen bags. They are given specialized training in handicraft works. Farmer's clubs are being formed and women are given training in agricultural activities. Leadership quality development programmes are also conducted by the Trust to instill the principle of individuality among women. Women are taught how to provide first aid for those who are involved in accidents and those who suffer due to diseases. The Trust provides tailoring training also for women. Organic farming is also taught to the women folk of the villages. Through these trainings women of the villages in Tirunelveli District get training in the fields mentioned above and

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they are employed in places freed from bonded labour. Those who are in need of financial assistance are also helped by the Trust through arranging loan facilities from the Banks\textsuperscript{91}.

The local administration and general public are helpful in their pursuits. The Ministry of Health Department also provides enough financial assistance to meet out the expenditures incurred by this Puratchi Non-Governmental Organisaiton. The Trust has its intention to expand its activities throughout Tamil Nadu in the days to come\textsuperscript{92}.

\textsuperscript{91} Ponkdi, Director, Interview on 19.7.2012.
\textsuperscript{92} S.N.Saravanan – Financial Trustee, Puratchi Trust – Interview on 10.7.2012.
EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT TRUST
(EEET)

Origin

The Education and Economic Empowerment Trust is a registered organization in Sivagiri in Tirunelveli District. The registration of the Trust was put into effect on 18.10.2002. The Director of the Trust S.Selvakumar has been fully involved the progress of this Trust. The aim of the Trust is to impart education and provide economic progress for the depressed classes, especially the Dalits.\textsuperscript{93} The services of the Trust are carried out in Tirunelveli and Virudhunagar Districts. Altogether 6 persons are fully involved in carrying out the activities of the Trust. Of the 6 persons employed in this concern 4 are women and two are men. This Trust in the initial stages of its origin has done meritorious services for the upliftment of the poor people.\textsuperscript{94}

\textsuperscript{93} Interview with S. Selvakumar, Director, on 26.01.2013.
\textsuperscript{94} Ibid.
Objectives of the Trust

The Trust shall be known as EEE Trust.

It administers, manages and maintains schools which will cater in particular to the needs of the suppressed communities. The Trust will develop the skill of the students to enable them to fit into trades and employment of their choice. Procreative arts and creative facilities are provided to enrich the children's experience of the world. The Trust plans to train persons in alternative education and community development\(^\text{95}\). The Trust has the objective of organizing lectures, seminars, workshops on matters and issues connected with development. The Trust envisages harmonious community life. The Trust aims at the progress of the commercial activities that would augment the income of the Trust\(^\text{96}\).

The Trust wishes to promote community health and promote hygienic conditions of the depressed classes. It wants to promote cultural activities that will serve to enrich the lives of the people. It

\(^{96}\) Ibid, P.2.
has an ambitious plan to provide relief to the needy in area affected by natural calamities and other emergencies. Itformulates, initiates and implements projects for the economic development of the poor.

Achievements

The Trust with the intention of placing children at high levels gathers the children in the Sivagiri centre and special coaching has been provided for them. Children belonging to the Dalit community and destitute children are taken care of. Free coaching is arranged for the children who are attending primary, middle and higher secondary levels. Children who are taught in the classes arranged by the Trust have obtained creditable passes and they are now employed as doctors and teachers. Special training has also been provided for the Dalit students to prepare well for the Government competitive examinations. Many have been selected for Government services. In this field of educating the poor

98 Interview with Selvakumari, Director of the Trust on 26.01.2013.
children the Trust has been highly appreciated by the people in and around Tirunelveli District\textsuperscript{99}.

The next priority of the Trust goes to empowerment of women. The Trust is very particular that women should be economically well off. For that purpose the Trust encourages the formation of Woman Self Help Groups. Through Self Help Groups each woman member is given a sheep to rear. Sheep rearing has been encouraged among women and the offspring of the sheep are also fostered by women which ultimately result in the economic growth of the women folk\textsuperscript{100}.

The Director of Education and Economic Empowerment Trust has been arranging all possible financial helps to the women folk of Tirunelveli area through contacts with Banks. Women Self Help Groups are directed by the Trust to meet the Bank Managers. The Bank Managers are also willing to help the poor dalit and forsaken women because these downtrodden women are backed by

\textsuperscript{99} Interview with F.Raja – Coordinator of the Trust dated 26-1-2013.

\textsuperscript{100} Interview with S.Selvakumar Director dated 26-1-2013.
the Trust Director\textsuperscript{101}. The Banks advance loans for the women to purchase sewing machine. The women folk of the villages are given loans by the Banks at the intervention of the Trust for the purchase of cows. Women sell milk and gradually they are able to repay the loans which they have obtained from the Banks\textsuperscript{102}.

In addition to this the Trust encourages growing of trees like tamarind, guava, mango, jacktree and teak. Each female member has been provided with five saplings so as to be grown in their respective areas. Growing of such cash crops also give women a lot of income\textsuperscript{103}. The system of arranging saplings to women has been implemented in 25 villages in Triunelveli District\textsuperscript{104}. Women Self Help Group members are trained in agricultural and administrative activities once in three months.

The primary problem confronted by the Trust is finance. It is very difficult to raise funds for the progress of the Trust. Many

\textsuperscript{101} The Trust Director is S.Selvakumar. An Interview was held with him on 29.01.2013.

\textsuperscript{102} F.Raja – Coordinator – Interview on 2-2-2013.

\textsuperscript{103} S. Kanagaraj, aged 52, a well wisher – interview on 2-2-2013.

\textsuperscript{104} S.Selvekumar, op.cit. P.89.
philanthropists come formed to provide funds for the running of the Trust. But the people especially women are extending their full support and cooperation for the progress and development of the Trust. The Trust hopes that in future this nascent Trust would develop into a gigantic Trust to help the poor Dalit children and women folk of Tamil Nadu.

7. PEACE TRUST

Genesis

Peace Trust is a registered Non-Governmental Charitable Organisation in Tirunelveli. This Trust has been inspired to promote health both in rural and urban areas addressing all the stigmatized diseases across the country. This Trust has been working with the socially and economically poor and vulnerable people of Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu since 1997.105

Peace Trust, the Non-Governmental Organisation is purely the creation of R.Anburajan, the Project Director of Peace Trust.

105 Appendix V
Hailing from a very poor family R. Anburajan completed medicine and became a physician. He felt the pulse of the poor, uncared for, the destitutes, disabled and sufferers of this life. This social concern motivated him\textsuperscript{106} to become social minded. Seeing the plight of HIV infected families for lack of care centres prompted R. Anburajan to open a community care centre exclusively for them and this community care centre became the nucleus of the present Peace Trust. Hemophilia is another dreaded disease. Studying their needs and problems a Hemophilic Centre was started by him in Tirunelveli. This centre serves the needs of the neighbouring districts of Thooththukkudi and Kanyakumari. He married Beulah Angeline\textsuperscript{107} the Headmistress of Kirubai Illam Naraikinaru Orphanage School. Beula Angeline has also been a social reformer. Hence it became an enhanced fact that both of them could put forward a joint venture to continue and develop the Trust. Naraikinaru is a village 8 Kilometres north of Tirunelveli. This village was once occupied by the Christian Missionaries who were

\textsuperscript{106} Peace Trust – Annual Report 2010-11 Palayamkottai, P.1.
\textsuperscript{107} Interview with R. Sudalaimuthu, Trust Office Superintendent on 29.01.2013.
responsible for starting schools in Naraikkinaru. Hence the Trust fomented by R.Anburajan has been named as 'Peace Trust', the ideal being the basis of Christianity. Thus from a humble beginning Peace Trust has been catering to the needs of the general community at large. Gradually branches of the Peace Trust have been opened in Mannur, Meelannelithanallur, Sankarancoil, Kurivikulam, Vasudhevanallur, Kadayanallur, Alangulam, Pappakudi, Nanguneri, Valliyoor, and Radhapuram within the Tirunelveli District\textsuperscript{108}.

**Growth of Peace Trust**

Peace Trust gives much importance to the health conditions of the people of the villages. With this aim the Peace Trust has formed varied adjacent organisations to take care of the health conditions of the villagers. The Peace Trust has a solid administrative organ to carry on the activities of the Trust.

\textsuperscript{108} Peace Trust – Annual Report 2010 – 2011, Tirunelveli, P.1
Administrative Organs

The Peace Trust functions under a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees consists of five members. Of the five one member functions as the director. The Director divides the entire administrative system of the Trust into two divisions, one enunciates the programmes to be carried out and the other manages the financial needs.
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PEACE TRUST

HIV Prevention

Tiruneveli District in the state of Tamil Nadu is one of the high HIV prevalent districts in Tamil Nadu. The key factor that increases the vulnerability of the people to HIV and AIDS is due to the high level migration. According to the Census Report of 2001, Tirunelveli had a population 2801194, of which 12% are living below poverty line. Every year nearly 6000 people migrate to Mumbai, Chennai, Kovai and other places in search of better employment opportunities. Migration causes the feasibility of the spreading of HIV. Hence HIV needs urgent intervention. The Peace Trust organizes awareness meetings to eradicate HIV\textsuperscript{109}. In addition to this those who are found HIV positive are given varied types of support such as nutrition and psychosocial\textsuperscript{110} and Institutional care and Anti Retro Viral Therapy. In addition to this, HIV patients are referred to appropriate care services apart from

\textsuperscript{109} Peace Trust, Annual Report, op.cit, P.1.
\textsuperscript{110} Interview with Jalion Rita, Trust Communication Manager on 28.12.2013.
availing the services offered by the project. They are given periodical medical checkup\textsuperscript{111}. Self Help Group awareness programmes and Youth Awareness programmes are imparted to the HIV affected patients. These programmes are organized based on the villages which are identified as high risk villages\textsuperscript{112}.

In 2011 the Peace Trust organized 30 camps. In these camps conducted in Koodamkulam and Kavalkinaru 1003 migrants had been screened. During regular screening 314 migrants had been diagnosed with signs of sexually transmitted diseases of whom 250 had undergone treatment for the same\textsuperscript{113}. During November 2007, the population control undertook a study to examine the patterns of male migration and its links with HIV risks. The study shows that there is a clear need for implementing interventions to prevent HIV infection among migrant workers. Recent surveillance data from Tamil Nadu indicate that the rates of the new HIV infections have decreased suggesting that prevention programmes including those

\textsuperscript{111} Peace Trust, Pamphet issued on 12.12.2012,P.3.
\textsuperscript{112} Ibid. P.6.
\textsuperscript{113} Peace Trust Annual Report op.cit, P.3.
of Peace Migrants Project are having a positive effect on the migrant community\textsuperscript{114}.

**Hemophilia Care**

Hemophilia, a fearful disease has crept into the arena of South Tamil Nadu especially Tirunelveli. Taking into account the distress and the agony undergone by the hemophiliac patients, the Peace Trust has founded the Hemophilia Society in 1997\textsuperscript{115}. This Society helps the hemophiliac patients of Kanyakumari, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli. The Hemophilic Society of the Peace Trust gets all assistances from the Indian Federation of Hemophilia. The Hemophilic Society caters to psychological and medical needs of the hemophilic patients\textsuperscript{116}. The services rendered by the Hemophilia Society have been so appreciable that R. Anbu Rajan the Director of Peace Trust has been unanimously elected Chairman of the South Regional Council of the Indian Hemophilic Federation.

\textsuperscript{114} Interview with Jalian Rita, Trust Communication Manager 28.12.12.
\textsuperscript{116} Annual Report, op.cit, P.14.
Cancer Care

Cervical Cancer ranks as the first most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. Besides, the incidents of breast cancer is increasing with an estimated 80000 new cases diagnosed every year\textsuperscript{117}. Peace Trust has been actively involved in sensitization programme against Retreats cancer. The breast cancer cure programme was implemented by the Peace Trust in 2008\textsuperscript{118}. In 2011 the Peace Trust had organized a 'Peace Health Centre' within the Peace Trust Campus. Oncologists from the Apollo Hospitals Chennai did treat patients who had come from across the far and wide of South Tamil Nadu. At present 63 male patients are being treated for cancer by the Peace Trust, as out patients, 40 female cancer patients are treated as out patients. 23 male patients and 23 female patients are treated by the Peace Trust as in patients. Operations have been performed for 12 male cancer patients and 8 female cancer patients\textsuperscript{119}.

\textsuperscript{117} Peace Trust Annual Report, op.cit, P.15.
\textsuperscript{118} Ibid, P.14.
\textsuperscript{119} Ibid, PP13-14.
**Kirubai Illam and Medical Services**

Kirubai Illam is a Secondary School in Naraikinaru a small village in the North eastern side of Tirunelveli. In this school thousands of students are being benefitted\(^\text{120}\).

Peace Trust has been organizing medical camps in the remote areas of the outskirts not only of Tirunelveli but also in the adjoining parts of the Districts as well. Quality medical service is being provided at free of cost during these camps where in which all the attendees irrespective of their caste or creed are screened. Camps are being conducted on Fridays. The Peace Trust has organized 114 medical camps of which 9876 people had received free medical care\(^\text{121}\). R. Anburajan, Director of the Peace Trust has been educating the community about health issues through a television programme called 'Health Time'\(^\text{122}\). This programme which is being telecast in television channels during prime hours has indeed gained the backing of many.

\(^{120}\) Interview with Sudalimuthu, op.cit, on 20.12.2010.  
\(^{122}\) Interview with R. Anburajan, Director, Peace Trust on 13.07.2011.
Realistic Changes

To bring hope and life to the children whose lives have been deteriorated by the problems associated with alcoholic fathers the Peace Trust has organised counselling centres. As a consequence of the services of the counselling centres, 352 families have been benefited\textsuperscript{123}. The programmes like de-addiction camps, rejuvenation programmes and the leaders Training did make a great impact in the lives of the alcoholic fathers.

The Peace Trust has been helping the homeless children, orphans and the impoverished\textsuperscript{124}. The Trust fosters a child's life from school age until the completion of 21 years, aiming to prepare each child with skills and knowledge required to assume adulthood, including those activities that will make the community a better place to live. A total of 190 children have been adopted under this programme till the end of March, 2011\textsuperscript{125}.

\textsuperscript{124} Jalion Rita, Interview, op.cit.
\textsuperscript{125} Peace Trust, Annual Report, 2011, op.cit, P.5.
**Funding Agencies**

The Peace Trust in all its life saving achievements has been financially helped by many funding agencies such as philanthropists, private organisations foreign agencies and Government Departments\(^\text{126}\).

![Funding Agencies Diagram]

The Tamil Nadu State AIDS control Society (TANSHC) provides 13% of the expenses of the Peace Trust. Voluntary Health

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Service (VHS) and AIDS Prevention Associate Centre (APAC) organisations in Chennai meet out 20% of the expenses of the Peace Trust. Churches in Palayamkottai and Tiruneveli succours 8% of the expenses of the Peace Trust. Compassion International Caruna Vikas, another funding agency in Chennai meets out 26% of the expenses. 21% of the expenditure is met by local contributors 3% of the expenses met by foreign agencies. 9% of the expenses is shouldered by Malteser International Organization from the Malta International Relief Fund.

The Peace Trust Organization does meritorious services for the enhancement of the sick, destitutes, forsaken women and neglected children through the funds obtained from various sources.
8. NAVA JEEVAN TRUST

Origin

Nava Jeevan Trust is a Non-Governmental voluntary organization founded in 1985. A group of social activists working for a long time in the field of social action felt the need for a structure to carry out various conscientisation programmes for the development of rural poor and hence this organization.\textsuperscript{127}

Since its inception Nava Jeevan Trust has been working for the liberation of the under privileged and deprived sections of the society through sensitization programmes. The Navajeevan Trust has augmented its strength and relevance by collaborating with the Departments of Sociology, Communication, Youth Welfare and National Service Scheme of the Manonmoniam Sundaranar University in Tirunelveli and the National child Labour Project of the Government of India in implementing the programme activities\textsuperscript{128} on the protection of the rights of women, children and

\textsuperscript{127} Appendix VI.
\textsuperscript{128} Interview with Nalachandra Sekaran, Director, Nava Jeevan Trust on 19.12.12.
the unorganized. The Trust also works in close collaboration with the National Programme for common school system campaign against child Trafficking and Campaign on Disarmament to compat poverty\textsuperscript{129}.

**Objectives**

The Trust aims at the eradication of child labour. The Trust tries to promote children's education. The Trust moves on with the expectation of improving the health of the girl children. The Trust instills the principle of equality and tries to educate women to fight against all forms of violence. Communal harmony and promotion of Self Help Groups are added to the objectives of the Nava Jeevan Trust\textsuperscript{130}. The Trust has the long term objective for creating a civil society where all women, children and the marginalized enjoy their due rights and privileges.

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\textsuperscript{129} Interview with R.Lakhsman – Co ordinator Nava Jeevan Trust on 19/12/2012.

\textsuperscript{130} Interview with R.Lakhsman on 19.12.2012.
Working Model of Nava Jeevan Trust.

All the programmes of the Nava Jeevan Trust has been based on community as a whole. The Trust tries to educate the downtrodden and gives them leadership training and are taught of their independent entity. On the basis of independent entity the Trust promotes volunteers to do rewardless work for the progress of children, women and destitutes. All their programmes are
broadcast through network services and are made known to the whole world. The community which faces the subservient nature gets enlightened and they also obtain the vigour to stand on their own legs. This is the service programme envisaged by the Nava Jeevan Trust\textsuperscript{131}.

**Growth and Achievements**

The registered head office of the Nava Jeevan Trust functions at Veera Monickapuram, in Tirunelveli. At present 7 men members and 66 women members are working in the head office\textsuperscript{132}. The services of the Trust are carried out in 15 Blocks of the Tirunelveli District. The 15 Blocks covered by the Trust are Kezhapavoor, Alankulam, Pappakudi, Kadayam, Kadayanallur, Valliyoor, Nanguneri, Ambaasamudram, Kalakkad, Cheranmahadevi, Radhapuram, Kuruvikulam, Sankarankoil, Meelaneelithanallur and

\textsuperscript{131} Nava Jeevan Trust’s working model. Pamplet issued by the Trust on 29.10.2012.

\textsuperscript{132} Interview with M.A. Lakhsmian, op.cit.
Palayamkottai. Within the fifteen Blocks they have covered 540 villages\textsuperscript{133}.

The organization of Nava Jeevan Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees. There are five Trustees, of them three are women. The Board has appointed a Director who has overall supervision in all the activities of the Trust. The Board is the legal body to control all its activities and for implementing different projects. The Trust is registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India to receive foreign funds. It is also registered under 12 (A) of the Income Tax Act. The Income Tax Department has given permission to Nava Jeevan Trust to accept donations under 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961\textsuperscript{134}. In addition to the head office, branch offices are functioning in Alankulam and Keezhapavoor.

\textsuperscript{133} Pamplet issued by the Trust on 28.09.12
\textsuperscript{134} Idem.
**Achievements – Enthronement of Children Rights**

Children of Alankulam, Pappakudi and Keelapavoor were engaged in making beedi, rearing the sheep and employed in brick lines. The Trust created an insight and awakening in the minds of these children and those who were involved in making beedi, rearing the sheep and employed in brick lines were withdrawn and sent to schools. Altogether 8960 students have been so far withdrawn and sent to schools\(^{135}\). In Alankulam, Pappakudi and Keezhappavoor child labour has been completely eradicated by the efforts of Nava Jeevan Trust.

The Trust has constituted Anti-Child Labour committees in 183 villages and child labour has been gradually dwindling. The Trust has been supervising the activities of the village level anti-child labour committees through the formation of a Central District level Rights Monitoring Committee in Tirunelveli\(^{136}\).

\(^{135}\) Interview on 19.12.012 op.cit.

\(^{136}\) Nava Jeevan Trust Pamplet, issued on 10.10.2012.
Empowerment of Women

The Trust serves for the uplift of women. Women beedi workers are the worst affected group in Tirunveli area. Nava Jeevan Trust has formed 158 Beedi workers Associations to look after the benefits of the women beedi workers. As a result of the Beedi workers Associations, the workers have started demanding fair wages from the industry where they are employed.

In Alangulam harassment of women has become a day to day affair. Hence the Trust has organized 53 Anti Dowry Associations. Two of the Trust's senior women programme coordinators are identified by the State Police Department as women counselors. The Government Labour Department has identified one of the women Programme Coordinator as a member in the committee against sexual harassment of women at the work places in Tirunveli.

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137 Interview with lakhsman, op.cit.
138 Nava jeevan Pamplet issued on 12-10-2013.
Nava Jeevan Trust has organized many training programmes. It has formed many women Self-Help Groups. These Self Help Groups encourages the uneducated women of the villages, take them to the banks, arrange for obtaining loans from the Banks. Thus the poor women are completely relieved from the domination of the money lenders. The Trust has contacts with Government Departments and try to help the poor people of the villages, especially the palmyra climbers. The palmyra climbers are also enlightened as to how to get loans from the Banks with a nominal rate of interest and repayment Bank loans in easy instalments.

The Nava Jeevan Trust has established itself as a resource and Training Organisation in the District to take up the issues of violation of child rights, women's rights and the rights of the workers through net working and collaboration with other Non-Governmental Organisations and people's organisations. There is every possibility for Nava Jeevan Trust to grow as a nodal organiaiton in the Southern region to address the larger issues including caste and gender discrimation.
9. VAAN MUHIL

Beginning

Vaan Muhil is another significant Non Government Organisation which functions in Tirunelveli. This developmental organization was started in Tirunelveli in 1995 to raise the standard of the marginalized communities for equitable and inclusive growth. It has been focusing on human rights education. It aims at initiating livelihood support programmes for the weaker sections.  

Vaan Muhil envisions a just and humane social order, where all individuals and groups enjoy their fundamental rights. All the poor and down trodden should have equitable access to resources and services. Vaan Muhil insists that all enlightened citizens should meaningfully participate in the democratic governance and decision making processes.

Objectives

The primary objective of the Vaan Muhil Non-Governmental Organisation is to ensure the socio-economic development of the
backward community. It also has the prime motto that all the members of the unprivileged group or community should take part in the development processes.

Another objective is that the problems confronted by the depressed should be made known to all and create a public opinion in favour of the unprivileged.

College students, adolescents and women should be taught in developing human rights. For the inculcation of the principle of human rights, training programmes should be organized.

Vann Muhil aims at providing livelihood for the people through employment. In this regard rural youth must be given preference in earning their livelihood.

Poor students should be fully encouraged so as to continue their education and engage in gainful employment.

Incessant seminars and conference in important issues should be conducted so as to enlighten the poor students.
Macro level programmes should be arranged to have joint venture to achieve the goals\textsuperscript{140}.

**Achievements**

Vaan Muhil takes up community based programmes to facilitate the socio economic development of the most marginalized and vulnerable sections. Technical skill is imparted to the poor rural villagers with the idea of constructing houses and buildings. They arrange for credit facilities. The poor people are unable to meet their ends. Hence the Vaan Muhil N.G.O. provides facilities for these people to get loans to be re-paid at easy installments. Vaan Muhil makes arrangements for the poor people how to get income. They provide tailoring machines to the poor people through the Self-Help Group. Through tailoring they earn their livelihood. Certain women are employed in mat weaving and certain others in pottery work. Through these works resource generation becomes possible They encourage the fisher folk\textsuperscript{141} and

\textsuperscript{140} Vaan Muhil, pamphlet – issued by M.A., Britto Director.
\textsuperscript{141} Vaan Muhil – op.cit.
Fisher Women Federations are formed so as to get more profit through fishing. Youngsters are educated at the instigation of Vaan Muhil and they are employed in various concerns. Mechanical Training and motor driving are taught to the poor students. Through these technical skills it becomes possible for them to get employed. Thus the Vaan Muhil takes steps for the income generation of the poverty stricken group\textsuperscript{142}. Many disabled people are taken care of by the Vaan Muhil Non-Governmental Organisation. Aged people are also brought under the purview of Vaan Muhil N.G.O. Vaan Muhil arranges for discussion and debates associated with common public problems. These discussions in the long run develop leadership qualities among the participants. Those who are in need of financial assistance to prosecute their studies are also helped by the Vaan Muhil Non-Governmental Organisation.

Vaan Muhil has also developed a resource centre on human rights and other developmental issues.

\textsuperscript{142} Vaan Muhil, pamphlet – issued by M.A., Britto Director.
Researches are also organized in collaboration with the leading institutions of research in taking up action researches. Vaan Muhil also takes up researches on the status of and access to health, education, water and land by rural communities. Vaan Muhil joins with other social development groups and does the best in enhancing the socio-economic development of the rural areas in Tirunelveli District\textsuperscript{143}.

In villages Vaan Muhil has organized training centres. In training centres training has been given to the participants as to the needs of various projects and programmes\textsuperscript{144}. Public education programmes have also been started by Vaan Muhil in Villages, Posters are exhibited throughout the villages to propagate the importance of education. Likewise hand bills have also been circulated regarding the necessity of persons to be aware of the importance of education\textsuperscript{145}. Specific programmes are also arranged for the society especially for students and youth to know the

\textsuperscript{143} Vaan Muhil pamphlet enculated by Vaan Muhil Trust on 28.11.2012.

\textsuperscript{144} Interview with M.A. Britto, Director, Vaan Muhil on 28.11.2012.

\textsuperscript{145} Ibid.
necessity of human rights. Employment oriented courses are also offered by Vaan Muhil for the young people of the villages\textsuperscript{146}. Vaan Muhil has been coordinating the efforts of Tsunami rehabilitation by development organization in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts. It maintains a good rapport with the governmental as well as Non-Governmental agencies in the two districts. Vaan Muhil has been supported fully by the people because they are the beneficiaries. Self Help Groups, Panchayat Councillors in the two districts are extending their helping hand for the projects adopted by Vaan Muhil\textsuperscript{147}. They have wide programmes in four districts – Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Sivagangai and Virudhunagar. Though Vaan Muhil has got financial constraints it proceeds with all enthusiasm to do the maximum for the downtrodden people of these areas.

\textsuperscript{146} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{147} Interview with P.Mariappan, Co-ordinator Vaan Muhl – Tirunelveli on 28.11.2012.
TIRUNEVELI DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.L.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Grama Panchayat</th>
<th>Number of Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Alankulam</td>
<td>Eleven Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>The beneficiaries are 104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Kalakkadu</td>
<td>Seventeen Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>75 beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mela Neelitha Nallur</td>
<td>Ten Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>The beneficiaries are 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Papakudi</td>
<td>Nineteen Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>134 beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Cheranmahadevi</td>
<td>Ten Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>103 are benefited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Manur</td>
<td>Thirty one Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>137 are benefited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total 98 Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>Total 637</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are ninety eight Gramapanchayats in Tiruneveli Districts. The Vaan Muhil activists have been divided into small groups and they have devoted their entire involvement in enhancing the betterment of the people of Alankulam, Kalakkadu, Melaneelithanallur, Papakudi, Cheranmahadevi and Manur villages.
of Tiruneveli District. As a result 98 grama panchayats and 673 individuals are benefited by the social activists of Vaan Muhil Non-Governmental Organisation\textsuperscript{148}.

**THOOTUKIDI DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.L.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Grama Panchayat</th>
<th>Number of Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kovilpatti</td>
<td>Twelve Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>One hundred and twenty eight beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kayathar</td>
<td>Nineteen Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>One hundred and forty six persons and benefited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thiruvaikundam</td>
<td>Twenty Three Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>Eight nine are benefited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tiruchendur</td>
<td>Seventeen Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>One hundred and twenty one are beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thoothukudi</td>
<td>Twelve Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>One hundred and one are benifited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total 83 Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>858 beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{148} P.Mariappan, - Vaan Muhil, Coordinator, Tiruneveli – 28.11.2012.
In Thoothukudi District the Vaan Muhil Non-Governmental Organisation's volunteers have selected 83 grama Panchayats. The volunteers of Vaan Muhil could help 585 persons in all the 83 grama Panchayats. Many are educated and they are placed in renowned workspots. Vaan Muhil has thus voluntarily without assistance from the Government done yeomen service in bringing up the lives of the downtrodden of Thoothukudi District.

**SIVAGANGA DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.L.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Grama Panchayat</th>
<th>Number of Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Manamadurai</td>
<td>Seventeen Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>106 beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Tiruppuvanam</td>
<td>Twelve Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>101 beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total 29 Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>207 beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Sivaganga District also Vaan Muhil activitists extended their services. As a consequence of their undaunted efforts, of the 29 Grama Panchayats 207 members, women children and youth have been benefited. Children are sent to schools, women are

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149 M.A. Britto – Director – Vaan Muhil – Interview op.cit.
taught to have the 'know how' of employment activities like tailoring and shop maintenance.

**VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.L.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Grama Panchayat</th>
<th>Number of Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sivakasi</td>
<td>Eight Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>62 beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Rajapalayam</td>
<td>Eighteen Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>111 beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26 Grama Panchayats</td>
<td>173 benefited</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Though Virudhunagar is 105 Kilometres away from Tirunelveli, the Vaan Muhl Non Govermental Organisation has extended its social servie activities to 26 Grama Panchayat units of Virudhunagar District and has evinced keen interest among the people of these 26 grama panchayat areas. As a result of the devoted activities of the social reformers of the organization 173 members of these panchayat units are being helped. Thus the Vaan Muhil Non-Governmental Organisation has been doing yeomen service in enhancing the lives of the poor people of these areas.
10. SIVA TRUST

Origin

Service Initiative for Voluntary Action Trust (SIVA) is a public charitable Trust registered under Indian Trust Act of 1882. The Trust has been working for the improvement in the life of Arunthathiar community people. Finance assisted for the Trust is mainly provided by HEKS in Switzerland. SIVA has another significant activity to be carried out – the child labour problem. SIVA Trust has selected 10 villages in Melaneelithanallur Block of Tirunelveli District and concentrates on the eradication of child labour. The SIVA Trust in the initial phase has started from April 2008 with 30 staff. The Trust aims at the total empowerment of rural and semi urban people in all developmental perspectives such as socio-economic and health cultural status. Awarness generation, education programmes and training are the mission of this organization\(^\text{150}\).

\(^{150}\) Interview with S.S.Shiva, Managing Trustee SIVA Trust on 22.12.2011.
Objectives of SIVA Trust

Siva Trust has the aim to provide legal literacy to the down trodden people and create awareness about HIV and AIDS. The Trust motivates the people to tap Government resources. The Trust propagates to liberate the addicts from alcoholism and other social evils. It gives orientation on Panchayat Raj and motivates the people to participate in elections. The Trust wants to promote communal harmony. The Trust aims at the care of orphans, widows aged people and destitutes. The Trust emphasizes on prevention of all forms of child exploitation\(^1\).

Growth and Achievements

The head office of the SIVA TRUST is located at Thirumalapuram village in Sankarancoil. At present the Trust has a total women membership of 625\(^2\). These 625 women are grouped into 40 Self Help Groups. The members of the Self-Help Groups are making propaganda about child labour. Altogether

\(^1\) SIVA Trust pamphlet issued in March 2004, p.2
\(^2\) Ibid p.3
5000 families have been made aware of the evils of the child labour system\textsuperscript{153} Children become drop outs from schools due to their family conditions. The Trust has been taking steps to restore the children to the schools. Altogether 69 drop out children are prepared by the Trust to have their re-schooling. Computer training has also been provided. Fifty five eligible youth have been trained in computer skills. The Trust staff contact the banks and make arrangements for the poor families to get loans. The Trust has arranged loans to the tune of Rupees 8.5 lakhs\textsuperscript{154}. Village Development Committees were formed in 10 villages around Sankarancoil to eradicate child labour and protect child rights. On 21.3.2009 the SIVA Trust formed the Melaneelithanallur Block level child Welfare Committee to look after the betterment of the children\textsuperscript{155}. Kitchen gardening has also been encouraged by the SIVA Trust to develop kitchen garden. As a result of the steps

\textsuperscript{153} SIVA Trust pamphlet, op.cit. P.2.
\textsuperscript{154} Interview with S.S.Shiva, Managing Trustee on 28.12.2012.
\textsuperscript{155} Ibid.
taken by the SIVA Trust 400 families have been trained to get nutritious vegetables.\footnote{SIVA TRUST, News Letters published in 2009.}

In 2009 there was a vast growth in the activities of the SIVA TRUST. When the SIVA TRUST was organized it had a women membership of 625. In 2009 the number increased to 900. In 2011 the number of women membership increased to 1560\footnote{Ibid, December 2011.}. The managing Trustee encouraged savings among the members. In December 2011 the savings of the members increased to 33.03 lakhs\footnote{Ibid, December 2011.}. The Trust took steps to contact the Banks and advance loans to its members. Altogether 131.28 lakhs has been mobilized as loans to these members.

The SIVA Trust has succeeded in eradicating child labour in 10 villages around Sankarancoil. Child marriage has been put an end to in all the ten villages adopted by SIVA Trust. Destitute children are prone to commit suicide. Owing to the steps taken by SIVA Trust suicidal tendency among the children has been stopped.
Owing to the intervention of the Trust Corporal Punishments accredited to school children were stopped\textsuperscript{159}.

**Upliftment of the Arunthathiar Community**

The Arunthathiar community is deemed as one of the scheduled castes in Tamil Nadu. They are originally from Andhra Pradesh and they were brought to Tamil Nadu by the Tamil kings who conquered the Andhra kings in war, to do menial labour like cleaning the drainages. Owing to poverty, floods and cyclone also some sections of the Arunthathiar community came from Andhra to Tamil Nadu\textsuperscript{160}. According to research statistics in Tamil Nadu there are 43 lakhs of scavengers. Of them 21,33,650 are male members and 21,66,350 female members\textsuperscript{161}. They speak both Tamil and Telugu. In Tirunelveli District there are 86,000 Arunthathiar Members. In Tamil Nadu population Arunthathiars form 4.9370 of the total population\textsuperscript{162}. A prominent lady, Arunthathi fought for the

\textsuperscript{159} Interview with S.S. Shiva, op. cit.
\textsuperscript{160} Siva Trust News Letters Published in 2009.
\textsuperscript{161} Siva Trust News Letters published in 2011.
\textsuperscript{162} Ibid, 2012.
liberation of this downtrodden community. Hence they are named after her as Arunthathiar\textsuperscript{163}. They are mainly scavengers.

Siva Trust members contacted 28 villages in and around Sankarancoil and selected 1103 families. All these members belonged to the Arunthathiaar community doing menial jobs. These family members were given training in agricultural activities.

Their children are sent to schools. The Trust is very particular that there should not be any drop out from the school. The Trust in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Government Health Department does all medical helps to the Arunthathiaar Community. From the rural areas seriously affected persons are shifted in ambulance van to the nearly hospitals to Tirunelveli. The poor people are charged nominal rates for the medical attendance carried out by the SIVA Trust\textsuperscript{164}.

SIVA Trust has been organizing regular awareness programme for the youth, women, students and general public in

\textsuperscript{163} Interview with S.S. Shiva, op.cit.
\textsuperscript{164} Siva Trust New Letters Published in 2012.
the villages on HIV and AIDS. In addition to this with the support of the Tamil Nadu AIDS control society SIVA Trust is organizing comprehensive care and treatment programme for the people infected with HIV, through counselling and referral services. Medical and psychological support is extended to AIDS patients and awareness has also been given to their relatives, so that they can continue to living a normal life. Thus the SIVA Trust has been performing devoted services for the upliftment of the Arunthathiaar Community.

**Propagation of HIV and AIDS awareness**

An awareness audio cassette titled "Vazhkai Vazhvatharke (life is to live) was released by the SIVA Trust. The Tamil Nadu Government organized 'Saral' festival programme in Courtallam for eight days from 30.07.2005 upto 6.8.2005 in Courtallam. On the request of the Siva Trust, the district administration arranged to broadcast the above audio cassette regularly on all the 8 days, due
to which more than 80000 tourists received the message and gained awareness on AIDS\textsuperscript{165}.

To create awareness among college students World AIDS day conference was conducted on 1-12-2005 in St. Xavier's College Palayamkottai. 540 National Service Scheme students participated in the World AIDS day. In 2\textsuperscript{nd} December 2006 one day seminar was organized in Xavier's college Palayamkottai for women students. On 21\textsuperscript{st} December 2006 another one day seminar was organized in Government Sidha Medical College Palayamkottai\textsuperscript{166}. On 26\textsuperscript{th} Feburary 2006 HIV/ AIDS awareness programme was organized for village members. M. Sornam Community organiser SIVA Trust gave the welcome address. Mrs. Kannammal, President of the Arunthathi Pengal Munnetra Sangam (Women's Progressive Association) presided over the programme. Thus the Trust has been performing meritorious services for the progress of the Aunthathiar community and propagating awareness campaign throughout the villages against HIV and AIDS.

\textsuperscript{165} SIVA Trust News letters published in 2005. 
\textsuperscript{166} SIVA Trust News letters published in 2006.
The Trust has acquired 6 acres of land. These six acres were divided among 12 scavenger families. These six acres belonged to the government. The Government lands were earmarked in the names of the 12 scavenger families. The Trust has also assisted 22 scavenger families to obtain house site titles (pattas). An additional 280 acres of land have been acquired and distributed by the Trust to the members belonging to other communities\textsuperscript{167}. On another occasion the Scavenger children were not allowed to take food in an Anganvaadi in an interior village in Sankarancoil. The matter was immediately taken up by the SIVA Trust and the matter was reported to the District Collector. As a result the scavengers children got their legitimate right. In December 2005 the coastal areas were devastated due to Tsunami. The SIVA Trust immediately rushed to the spots along the Coastal areas. The SIVA Trust has also certain plans to execute in the days to come\textsuperscript{168}.

The Trust has the plan to provide care and support to the orphans, aged people and destitutes by opening homes for them.

\textsuperscript{168} SIVA Trust News letters, op.cit, 2009.
The Trust aims at driving away social evils and superstitions. The Trust has the expectation to provide lands to the landless in future. It has the consideration to promote social and communal harmony in rural areas. The Trust is very particular that girls, particularly girls belonging to the Arunthathiaar community – should be ensured of security. The main motto of SIVA Trust is to create an exploitation free society for the children.

11. VIDYARAMBAM TRUST

In February 2002 one Mr. Renganathen met a few small children returning home from their school in Muttom, a remote village in Kanyakumari District. Out of curiosity he tried to test their level of academic knowledge and was appalled by how little they knew. He asked them what they did in school and the prompt reply was in the form of a gesture towards an aluminium plate to show that they go to school to eat the free Government meals. This incident was instrumental in Renganathen's taking up the challenge.

\footnote{SIVA Trust News letters, op.cit, 2009.}
and to commit himself to supplement the effort of the Government
to enrich the schools of Tamil Nadu with quality education.  

Ranganathan started an organisation in 2002. This organization later on developed into Vidyarambam Trust. Renganathen had a personal experience that indicated a wide-gap in the process of learning between the urban and the rural children. The rural pre-primary children were not sufficiently engaged in schools in the learning process. The parents were not in a position to pay a mere sum of rupees ten per month for supplemental education due to uncertainties of their income.

Ranganathan started the education mission at Vattakottai in Kanyakumari District by paying a teacher and providing free education to 17 children in 2002. The interest seen in the neighbouring villages spurred further activities in establishing more centres for such education. When the demand became overwhelming, a few friends joined Ranganathen and Vidyarambam

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Trust was born. Thus Ranganathen founded the Vidyarambam Trust\textsuperscript{174}.

Vidyarambam Trust was started in June 2004 at Sankarancoil in Tirunelveli District. Its branches had been gradually expanded to Thisayanvilai, Ittamozhy and Manakkavalapuram in Tirunelveli District.\textsuperscript{175} Thus having started in February 2002, today Vidyarambam is spread over 13 Districts of Tamil Nadu and has reached 63,723 children through 2,785 centres. The thirteen Districts where the Vidyarambam Non-Governmental Organisation has branches are Kanyakumari, Tirunveli, Thooththukudi, Theni, Madurai, Dindigal, Tirichy, Namakkal, Salem, Ariyalur, Vellor, Thiruvananmalai and Nagappattinam. To have full concentration in all these districts Vidyarambam Trust has formed its headquarters at Adayar in Chennai.\textsuperscript{176}

\textsuperscript{174} Vidyarambam pamphlet, Chennai, 2013 PP3-4.
\textsuperscript{175} Interview with A.Muthukumaraswamy (State Assistant Project Coordinator, Vidyarambam Sankarancoil on 20-12-2012.
\textsuperscript{176} Pamphlet issued by the Trust, 2013, Chennai, P.2.
Objectives of Vidyarambam Trust

Vidyarambam Non-Governmental Organisation is dedicated in providing enjoyable quality education to all the under privileged\textsuperscript{177}. It has the aim to prepare the child between the age of 4 and 11 to gain self-confidence and enough skill in Tamil, English and Mathematics to continue the higher education in regular schools. It is the aim of the Trust that every child in a village should attend school and there should not be any drop out from schools. In order to involve children in studies the Trust has organised Libraries in Villages so that the children can have an access to Library and to inculcate the idea of reading habit from the early ages. Availability of reading material and regular activities related to reading and writing is important so that the reading and writing skills of the children would grow. With these aims the Vidyarambam Trust has started its work throughout Tamil Nadu and the nearby areas.

\textsuperscript{177} Pamphlet issued by Vidyarambam Trust, Adyar, 2012, P.11
Achievements of the Trust

The Tsunami of December 26, 2004 left a trail of death and destruction along the Tamil Nadu coast in South India. More than 7000 persons perished in and around Nagapattinam. Tens of thousands were left homeless. Most dreadfully hundreds of innocent children were orphaned, many of them losing both parents in the tragedy.

Model school at Nagapattinam

In 2005 a rehabilitation campus including a school was built and handed over by the Rotary Club of Chennai to the Nagapattinam District Administration. In 2008 a full time English medium Nursery cum Primary School was started as a joint initiative of Vidyarambam Trust, the District administration and the Rotary club of Madras.\footnote{A.Muthukumaraswamy, op.cit.}

There are around 250 children studying in the school from LKG to standard IV and most of them are from Tsunami affected

\footnote{A.Muthukumaraswamy, op.cit.}
fishermen families. Activity based learning methodology is followed to teach the children. The school has a library, consisting of many books and educational toys and also an activity room housing for Computer Science and Mathematics corners\textsuperscript{179}.

**Read India Campaign**

Pratham is the largest Non-Governmental Organisation working to provide quality education to the underprivileged children of India. Pratham was established in 1994 to provide education to the children in the slums of Mumbai\textsuperscript{180}. Pratham has been one of the prominent sponsors of Vidhyaarambam Non-Governmental Organisation.

Vidhyaarambam Trust wishes that every child in a village should attend school. Following the model of Pratham Non-Governmental Organisation, the Vidyarambam Trust also has been much interested to sustain reading habit among children of all age groups. The Trust operates libraries in villages and students are

\textsuperscript{180} Vidhyarambam Trust, Hand Book, 2012, Chennai P.1.
made to read. Tutors are also appointed to provide the students with simple story cards and booklets suitable for the readers at their early years.\textsuperscript{181}

Library co-ordinator visits each library twice a month and conducts an activity session for the children. After Tsunami, a mobile toy library has been introduced with toys to play more than 700 games. The unique feature of the Van is to have painting of multi-coloured games on the body of the van itself which could be played with multi-coloured magnetic game counters. Curriculam based quizzes, games and work sheets are made available.\textsuperscript{182} Attractive and memory power packed toys are provided.

Vidyarambam Trust has been strongly rooted in the villages of Tamil Nadu. Selecting about 20 children from each centre and appointing qualified and enthusiastic tutors, the Trust has so far launched 2385 Pre-Primary learning centres with 63,075 children and 2337 support course Junior and Senior centres with 47,011

\textsuperscript{181} Vidyarambam, pamphlet, 2011, Chennai, P.12.
\textsuperscript{182} Ibid, P.13.
students, the Vidhyarambam Trust has grown up into a massive structure\textsuperscript{183}. The Trust aims at the reading and learning. Hence this process is defined as Read India Campaign.

**Funding Agencies**

To meet the above targets the Trust needs a lot of money. Only from generous philanthropists the Trust can make these goals a reality. Efforts of Pratham Fund Raising brings in corporates to support Vidhyarambam Trust\textsuperscript{184}. Institutions which serve as sponsors to the Vidhyarambam Trust are\textsuperscript{185}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Balamandir Kamaraj Trust</td>
<td>Chennai, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sri Pramaswami Poomari Amman Educational Charitable Trust</td>
<td>Madurai, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Theosophical Society</td>
<td>Chennai, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lions Clubs International</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{183} Interview with A.Muthukumarswamy State Assistant Project Coordinator on 20-12-2012.

\textsuperscript{184} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{185} Vidyarambam – Annual Report 2012, Chennai P.15.
Likewise, many companies have also come forward to provide financial assistance to the Vidyarambam Trust.

The Companies which have come forward to provide financial assistance to the Trust are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Number of Villages / Schools</th>
<th>Number of Children / centres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>AMCO batteries</td>
<td>Ten Villages in Kuruvikulam block Tirunelveli District</td>
<td>Sponsoring 600 Children in 30 centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Appollo Hospital</td>
<td>Ten villages in Semmararkoil block Nagapattinam dist</td>
<td>Supporting 600 Children in 30 Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Dalmia Cement</td>
<td>Five Villages in Ariyalur Block Ariyalur District</td>
<td>Supporting 300 Children in 15 centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Sundaram Fasteners</td>
<td>Ten villages in Valliyoor block in Tirunevlei District</td>
<td>Supporting 600 Children in 30 centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Ullas Trust</td>
<td>21 Government Schools in Sankarancoil block Tirunveli District</td>
<td>Supporting 3000 students classes VI, VII and VIII</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Institutions, Companies and private individuals who come for donating amounts to the Vidyarambam Trust are provided income tax exemption under 35AC of the Income Tax legislation. Hence, many private persons also come forward to provide donations abundantly.

With these donations and State and Central assistance the Trust is able to meet out the expenses. The teachers and volunteers who are employed in this concern have devoted with duty consciousness and they take this opportunity as a chance to help the poor children in enlightening them in the field of education.