Revenue Minister, Mr. Narasa Reddy visit to Stuvapuram in the year 1974
Source: Samskar Organisation, Vijayawada.

J.Vengala Rao, Chief Minister, Governor of A.P.
Sri R. Prabhakara Rao, S.P. of Guntur
Sri M. Chandrayya, District Collector, Guntur
Source: Samskar Organisation, Vijayawada.
Mrs. Hemalata Lavanam discussing with the parents of a criminal about his surrender at Stuvarpuram in the year 1974.

Source: Samskar Orgnsiation, Vijayawada.

Mr. P.Naras Reddi, the then Revenue Minister keenly at the Photo exhibition on the life of Mahatma

Source: Samskar Organisation, Vijayawada.
Surrender Before the Minister Sri Vallagi Isak in the 1974 Leader of the Gang – He was reformed, now he is a Priest, 1980

Source: Samskar Organisation, Vijayawada.

Mrs. Hemalata counselling with criminals in the year 1975

Source: Samskar Organisation, Vijayawada.
Gajjala Prasad, considered to be most notorious at Stuartpuram,
His wife Santamma, Mrs. Hemalatha Lavanam and Ballani Venkaiah in the year 1975
(Source: Samkar Organisation, Vijayawada.)

Mrs. Hemalata, Mr. Lavanm, Mr. M.Kristna Rao, Mr.Narasa Reddy
Minister for Social Welfare, Minister for Agriculture
(Source: Samkar Organisation, Vijayawada.)
Mrs. Hemalata
The then J.C. of Guntur 1994-1995

Source: Samkar Organisation, Vijayawada.

Ex-Criminals of Stuvarpuram, 140 acres were distributed in the year 1975

Source: Samkar Organisation, Vijayawada.
With the Inspiration of Vinobhabhave, Chambal Valley Decoits (M.P.) reformation
Samskar spear headed criminal reformation in Andhra Pradesh starting from 1974 a Stuartpuram (Ex-Criminals settlement)
in Guntur district. Still the project is going on for those who wanted to come out of the centre.
Mrs. Hemalata, Sri A.K. Khan, D.I.G. of Police

Source: Samskar Organisation, Vijayawada.
Criminal Reformation by Samskar Organisation

Source: Samskar organisation, Vijayawada.
Criminal Reformation by Samskar organisation.

Source: Samskar Organisation, Vijayawada.
Counselling Criminals by Hemalata in the year 1974 by Samskar organisation.

Source: Samskar Organisation, Vijayawada.
Criminal Reformation of the Stuvapuram

Source: Samskar Organisation, Vijayawada.
Criminal Reformation of the Stuvarpuram

Source: Samskar Organisation, Vijayawada.
Criminal Reformation from the year 1974, Stuvartpuram, Seetanagar kavali, Kapparallatippa

Source: Samskar Organisation, Vijayawada.
సర్పండపంద రామానంద్

ఎంకుకున్న అదరులుత రామానంద్ కోసం ఇది ఒక ముఖ్యమైన అధ్యయన. రామానంద్ కు ఒక సుందర ప్రాంతం ఉంది. ఇది ప్రతి లోపంలో సుమారు నూనె మంది రామానంద్ కు పంపడానికి బడింది.

ఇది ప్రతి లోపంలో సుమారు నూనె రామానంద్ కు పంపడానికి బడింది. రామానంద్ కు ఒక సుందర ప్రాంతం ఉంది. ఇది ప్రతి లోపంలో సుమారు నూనె మంది రామానంద్ కు పంపడానికి బడింది.

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ధనార్థ రామానంద్
"శేషం అయినందులు లోకం చరిత్ర లో మల్లికు అద్భుతం తెరుగుతుందాను. మరిగా బ్రహ్మాన్ని మత్తూ లోకం పరంపర పరంపర పరంపర పరంపర పరంపర పరంపర పరంపర పరంపర పరంపర పరంపర పరంపర పరంపర పరంపర" యొక్క రచయిత రామనాథం ప్రతిభ ప్రతిభ ప్రతిభ ప్రతిభ ప్రతిభ ప్రతిభ ప్రతిభ ప్రతిభ ప్రతిభ ప్రతిభ ప్రతిభ ప్రతిభ

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2a. Press clippings: Criminal tribes reform

The Indian Express, Tuesday, September 3, 1974

Chief Minister visits Stuartpuram today

The Chief Minister, Mr. J. Venkata Rao, visits today Stuartpuram, where a year ago a thoughtful and conscientious police officer initiated a scheme to reform its inhabitants, most of whom had been condemned by society as criminals who cannot be rehabilitated.

The colony was set up in 1914 for criminals or former criminals, drawn from the Erukula tribe. For over 20 years the inhabitants had been entrusted to the care of the Salvation Army.

What is being attempted in the colony, thanks to the initiative taken by Mr. M. V. Thomas, when he was Superintendent of Police, Guntur district, is a massive reformation programme in which both government and voluntary agencies are co-operating.

The Chief Minister will inaugurate at Stuartpuram today a land and water resources scheme. A stretch of 147 acres, which was cultivable wasteland six months ago now consists of a number of paddy fields. The scheme will help the owners of these fields in their cultivation.

Manupati Cepal and Pola Bhushan, two weeks ago were released from Rajahmundry Central Jail after serving a long jail term for criminal offences. They returned to Stuartpuram. They were shown two plots of rice fields and told that the fields belonged to them. They were overwhelmed with joy and spent some time, standing on the banks of the Rompetru drain and looking at the green rice fields.

When the 147-acre baner was distributed to the inhabitants, some people thought that the Erukula would never cultivate the land and it would pass on into the hands of rich landlords of the area.
Call to reform criminals

Express News Service
VIJAYAWADA, June 11

The Criminal Reformation Committee held today at the Pranahita Ashram in the city has appealed to the Government to rehabilitate criminals soon after serving their terms in jail. It sought prevention of just for them, or overlooking age but not crime.

The conference felt the necessity of a national movement to rehabilitate criminals from the perils of crime and police harassment. It appealed to the public not to look down upon criminals and to accord sympathetic understanding for their coming to seek a responsible life and show them a chance in that direction.

Mr. M.V. Thomas, person-in-charge, Hyderabad Urban Development Corporation (HUCO), was the guest speaker at the conference. He stressed the importance of rehabilitation of criminals in the reformation of residents of slums. He said that the society should help criminals to make an honest beginning and secure their livelihood. The police should not harrass the former criminals who are trying to lead a good life.

Criminals, police officials, and social workers took part in the conference.

Many of the 259 criminals, who participated in the conference, were bitter about the circumstances that forced them to commit crime. It was just a question of survival or the education of the children that compelled them to go for a crime when their husbands were already in jail, they said and narrated their experience.

Mr. P. Devakumar, Additional SP, was the president.
Mr. P. Davadi, Sub-Collector.
Mrs. V. Devaraju, Mrs. Ganeshara, Mr. Ravi, Mr. Ravi, Mrs. Hemalatha, Mr. Ravi, Mr. Ravi, Mrs. Ravi, Mr. Ravi, Mrs. Ravi.
continued their crime with a vengeance. Mr. Laveran added.

Mr. Gajack Prasad and others who never heeded the advice for change, committed a daring robbery in the Srinakaraparam temple. Thus the movement ran into rough weather with some committing thefts and others mounting pressure on reformers to give them more help.

Now they seem to have realized their mistake and are keen to settle down in peace. There are about 25 active criminals in Srinakaraparam now. Some women whose husbands are languishing in jail or those who lost employment in the wake of closure of the ILTD factory in Chilala, have taken to petty thefts. But on the whole there is a sharp decline in the number of the settlers. Mr. Gajack Prasad.

Gone are the days when a bride was given to the toughest thief in the colony. We have now married a girl who had fallen in love with him during his trial. Now fifty, Gajack Prasad says he worries about finding employment for his son-in-law and the education of his children.

He entrusted these responsibilities to Mrs. Laveran when she visited him at the Vijayawada jail recently. He promised her that he would change after his release.

Though they failed to bring about reformation in Srinakaraparam immediately, the gained experience to reform settlers of Srinakararam, Keperalalshippa and Kacherimetta.

Keperalalshippa is a settlement situated on the other side of Vijayawada. There were about 45 criminal families who used to loot the passing goods trains. They dreaded the police so much that the women had to stand guard at the doors while the men slept. They never slept in their homes but on the hilltops fearing the police.

When life became miserable they sought the help of the Atheist Centre to bate them out in 1975.

The Atheist Centre, agreed to help them but on three conditions that they should reform, undergo the process of law for their past crimes and expect no financial or other benefits from it. However, it assured them of police harassment if they deserted from crime. The deal was struck. The Centre got them a quarry to live on. Land was given to them. It could not be irrigated as the borewells were not energized. Now there are only a couple of criminals in Srinakararam.

Word has gone to Keperalalshippa near Banagaram. Chokrapani a notorious criminal surrendered to the police at the instance of his wife through the Atheist Centre. Mr. Laveran appreciated the gesture of Mr. Greenivasa Rao, DIG of Police, Guntur who instead of arresting Chokrapani, gave him a letter and asked him to surrender to the police at Nellore. Chokrapani after going through the process of law now earns a living by fishing.

Mr. Laveran feels that police has a crucial role to play in making reformation a success. The police should treat the reformed criminal with leniency and help him in the rehabilitation process.

Vijayawada Staff Reporter.

Criminal turned social worker

VIJAYAWADA

A notorious criminal has reformed himself and has now become a social worker and journalist. Till a few years ago, Jayapal was a dreaded criminal in Kacherimetta settlement near Kavali. He used to get stab while others only threatened to stab.

He became such a menace to safe travel that he was in the list to be arrested and bilaganta that the police gave him instructions to shoot him straight.

Undeterred, he continued his crime till he became a reformed and apologetic person. He reached the Atheist Centre at Vijayawada known for criminal reformation along with many others.

"How much will you take to reform me?" he asked. The straight question he put to Mrs. Hemalatha Laveran a social worker and a prominent member of the centre. Unruffled, Mrs. Laveran acquired about him and asked him to help him in scrupling the floor of his house with dung. Later he was taken to the Superintendent of Police.

"You are not a villain," is how much to his surprise, offered him a seat. Jayapal was acquitted of the charges against him.

He started Sathish Sangam (Peace Association) and reformed other criminals in the area and rehabilitated them in Nagoor, a Nagar. He conducted inter-caste marriages and added a magazine Kavali Times. His wife Durga, is a councillor of Kavali Municipal, Jayapal is now fighting the cause of reformed criminals.

Vijayawada Staff Reporter.

Jayapal with wife Durga.

in and get off speeding trains, desperately
snatching chains from women passengers.
Even the police were afraid of him because
in his own words they knew that he would

Mrs. Hemalatha Laveran, enlisting youth just released from jail, for reformation.

The Hindu, Friday, June 29, 1984
Stuartpuram gangs eager to step out of crime world, but......

By SYED AMIR

Vijayawada, Dec 17: They want to reform themselves and come into the mainstream of life. But the fear of the police and encourage from some notorious elements in chaki detect them from leaving the world of crimes.

If the long-sustained efforts of various social service bodies and the state government could not root out notorious robber and gangsters of Stuartpuram in Chukkavaram, it is precisely how the "shubh-ashir" (saviour) role is being played by some lower rung policemen. A number of ex-criminals and the active ones squarely blame the police for the notorious Stuartpuram gangs now abound for. However, Guntur district police superintendent Satish Ramadi rules out the allegation.

"I want to leave this dark profession. But once I surrender the police may lodge cases against me", says Chikka Suri, an inter-state robber and gang leader wanted in a number of theft and robbery cases. Earlier, Paul surrendered to the police and languished in a jail but "legally" for about six months. He was released without being produced in a court, a social worker points out.

Other gangsters want to surrender provided the state government sets up a special court to deal with Stuartpuram criminals. But the lure of fear haunts them. A few years ago, a gangster surrendered to the police and he was allegedly fingered and killed by the police. The police can do anything. They may lodge cases. Let them first announce the number of cases pending against each gangster in Stuartpuram. Once we know the cases in which we are implicated, we will surrender and undergo punishment for the crimes", argue some gang members.

The history of Stuartpuram dates back to 1914 when the then British government built a colony for proper control of nomadic tribes involved in theft and robbery in the state. The Britishers treated every member of the designated tribe as a "criminal" or as a "potential criminal" and introduced a surveillance system in the colony.

Stuartpuram was one of the four criminal settlements established between 1908 and 1914. The other being Sithampuram (near Vijayawada), Kappaladiga in Nellore and Siddapuram in Kurnool.

A number of voluntary organisations including Sanskar, run by noted social workers G. Lavanam and Hemalatha Lavanam, have been working on reformation of these criminals since 1974. A good number of gangsters surrendered and gave up robberies and thefts. When Sanskar took up the project in 1974 there were 220 history-sheets. Their number has now come down to four gangs comprising 30 persons. It is these active gangsters that are keeping the ill-repute of Stuartpuram alive. They have become a challenge to the reforming bodies thanks to the secret support extended by some police personnel.

A major hurdle, points out Lavanam, in reforming these criminals is the non-cognitive social conditions outside. Large-scale political and economic criminalisation in society force them to think twice before stepping out of the criminal activity. Further, the police should change their attitude towards criminals and stop rounding up the Stuartpuram men wherever in the country a crime is committed.

The Stuartpuram gangsters commit robberies in push locations all over the state and outside. As many as 900 cases are pending against them in different police stations in the state and outside. According to "some" of these gangsters, the bounty is shared among themselves and the police. A part of the income also goes to the "financiers", who provide the initial "capital" to the gangs to meet their travel, lodging and boarding expenses. In some cases the local police personnel coerce the robbers to continue in the dark profession for obvious reasons. This is also affecting the reformation work in Stuartpuram, social workers point out.

"According to Anjani Kumar, as many as 20-dictat gangsters are operating from Stuartpuram. "Whenever instances of offences committed by these gangs in other districts come to our notice, we take the action and extend full cooperation to the local police", he said. "Anjani Kumar added, "Sanskar chairman Lavanam sees a major challenge in rehabilitating the gangsters rather than reforming them. "It's easy to reform criminals. But rehabilitation is a major problem, because no one believes in them. The only way out is self-employment schemes which the government should offer", he says. His organisation has opened a youth club and a typing-writing institute with the assistance by Levi Fregget, chairman of International Humanist and Ethical Union, Norway.

The Indian Express, Thursday, December 18, 1997
Stuartpuram gangs eager to step out of crime world, but....

By SYED ABBAR

Vijayawada, Dec 17: They want to reform themselves and come into the mainstream of life. But the fear of the police and encouragement from some inspiratious elements in society detract them from leaving the world of crimes.

If the long sustained efforts of various social service bodies and the State government could not root out notorious robber gangs in Guntur district, it is precisely because the "stubborn" side is being played by some lower rung policemen. A number of ex-criminals and the active ones squareup the police for the notoriety Stuartpuram gang new found for. However, Guntur district police superintendent Anjan Kumar refutes the allegation.

"I want to leave this dark profession. But once I surrender the police may hunt me anywhere. Four Chandu, an inter-State robber was wanted in a number of theft and robbery cases. Earlier, Patel surrendered to the police and languished in a cell for "allegedly" about six months. He was released without any trial in a district court. Social worker pointed out.

"Other gangsters want to go beyond the State government sets up a special court to deal with Stuartpuram criminals. But the fear of false cases haunt them. A few years ago, a social worker was arrested and the police and he was allegedly charged sheeted in many working which he was involved.

"The police can do anything. They may hunt cases. Let them first announce the number of cases pending against each gangster in Stuartpuram. Once we know whether the cases in which we are implicated are genuine, we will surrender and undergo punishment for the crimes", argue some gang members.

The history of Stuartpuram dates back to 1974 when the then British government built a colony for proper control, for nomadic tribes involved in theft and robbery in the State. The Britishers treated every member of the designated tribe as a "criminal" or a "potential criminal" and introduced a surveillance system in the colony. Stuartpuram was one of the core criminal settlements established between 1988 and 1994. The other being Stuartpuram (near Vijayawada), Koppal and Srinivasa in Nellore and Siddapur in Kurnool.

A number of voluntary organisations including Samskar, run by noted social workers G Lavansam and Hemalatha Lavansam, have been working on rehabilitation of these criminals since 1974. A good number of gangsters surrendered and gave up robberies and thefts. When Samskar took up the project in 1974 there were 250 history-sheets. Their number now comes down to four gangs comprising 30 persons. It is these active gangists that are keeping in high repute of Stuartpuram alive. They have become a challenge to the reforming bodies thanks to the secret support extended by some police personnel.

A major hurdle points to Lavansam, in reforming these criminals is the non conducive social conditions outside. Large scale political and economic criminalisation in society force them to think twice before jumping out of the criminal activity. Further, the police should change their attitude towards criminals and stop rounding up the Stuartpuram men wherever in the country a crime is committed.

The Stuartpuram gangs commit robberies in poor localities all over the State and outside. As many as 300 cases are pending against them in different police stations in the State and outside. According to some of these gangsters, the police are shared among themselves and the police. A part of the income also goes to the "financiers", who provide the initial "capital" to the gangs to meet their travel, lodging and boarding expenses.

In some cases the local police personnel coerce the robbers to continue in the dark profession for obvious reasons. This is also affecting the rehabilitation work in Stuartpuram, social workers point out.

"According to Anjan Kumar, as many as 20 dacoot gangers are operating from Stuartpuram. "Whenever instances of offences committed by these gangists in other districts come to our notice, we take due action and extend full cooperation to the outside police", the SP said refuting the allegation that the local police had connived with these gangists to get a share in the looty.

"In making recoveries too, the local police make all efforts," Anjan Kumar added.

Samskar chairman Lavansam sees a major challenge in rehabilitating the gangs rather than reforming them. "It is easy to reform criminals. But rehabilitating them is a major problem, because no one believes thieves. The only way out is self employ or- ment schemes which the government should offer", he says. His organisation has opened a youth club and a type-writing institute with the assistance by Leif Fregel, chairman of International Humanist and Ethical Union, Norway.
Stuartpuram, Seetanagaram: Dacoits surrender

Hyderabad, March 29: Twenty-five notorious dacoits, including four women, from Stuartpuram and Seetanagaram areas in Guntur district, surrendered in the presence of Tribal Welfare Minister G Nagesh here today.

The surrendered dacoits included wanted criminals – Chukka Paul, Madhu, Raju, Kondiah and Daniel of Stuartpuram – who were involved in at least a dozen cases.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister complimented the dacoits for giving up criminal life.

The Minister promised that the Government would soon come up with a rehabilitation package for those living in Stuartpuram, Seetanagaram and other settlement colonies.

BUS WITH SURRENDERING DACOITS LEAVES FOR CITY

Bapatla (Guntur), March 28:

Thirteen convicts and ex-convicts of Stuartpuram in Bapatla mandal, who are willing to surrender, were moved to the State capital in a special bus today for being produced before DGPH Vijayawada.

Dacoits section DIG AK Khan and the Vijayawada Samskar conducted a special programme on March 11 to acquaint themselves with the dacoits in Stuartpuram who were willing to surrender.

Bapatla 1930: Kondiah and others had a special APSRTC bus arranged today afternoon to transport the dacoits who had this programme express their consent to surrender.

The bus has left for Hyderabad through Sitanagaram near Vizianagaram.
Gangs of Stuartpuram go into pages of history

Guntur, Oct 3: The dreaded gang in Stuartpuram area once known to brew criminals with assembly line precision are slowly passing into the pages of history. In a new move, the settlements once known as Gang 1 and Gang 2 because they contained hardened criminals have been renamed as Suchanagar and Pragatinaragby an NGO outfit on Wednesday.

Hemalata Lavanam, secretary of Samskar, a non-governmental organisation working for the rehabilitation of criminals and the downtrodden, said on Wednesday that a change in name was necessitated to bring awareness among the tribals of the village that they no longer carry the burden of a bad and unfortunate history.

"The change of name was announced at a meeting organised at Stuartpuram in Guntur district in connection with the silver jubilee celebrations of Samskar.

When Stuartpuram was formed in the later part of 16th century for restricting the movement of criminal gangs of Yerukula community, the village was divided into areas with the names of Big Gang, Gang 1 and Gang 2. Since the criminals have been weaned away from the 'bad world' the names of the settlements on the State highway have been changed. Stuartpuram will, however, continue to retain its name, not its earlier 'fame'.

Hemalata expressed anguishment over the continuation of criminal life by some, though they are very small in number, and appealed to them to desist from indulging in criminal activities. She appealed to the media not to attribute the crimes committed by others to Stuartpuram people without verifying facts.

Later, a new scheme Child At Risk (CAR) for the children of former criminals to provide them education was launched and 10 children of former criminals were given cheques for Rs 2,000 each for continuing their education.

Vallagi Ishaq, a former dacoit, who has now become a devout Christian and is leading a pious life as a pastor and a former criminal couple, Karreddula and Marthumma, who are also leading life as devout Christians, were felicitated.

At the meeting, district tribal welfare officer D Raja Muthiah was the chief guest. Dr S Ramesh Babu, editor of Nadasthunam Charitra, Dr M Shrinivas Reddy, history lecturer of Andhra Loyola College of Vijayawada, G Sakala, treasurer of Samskar, participated in the meeting.

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