

## Annual activity report 2009 - 2010

*It gives me immense pleasure in presenting the brief activity report of Rural Uplift Centre for the year 2009-2010.*

### The people of concern:

The focus groups of RUC are the poor women, Dalit, women beedi workers, deprived children, youth, agricultural labourers, fishermen and small & marginal farmers and the oppressed and most backward caste communities in the districts of Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin Districts.

### Activities:

Rural Uplift Centre's activities are concerned with protection and promotion of the livelihood of its target groups in Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin Districts

### RUC involved in the following services during the year 2009-2010

- ❖ Disaster Risk Reduction programme in Drought & floods prone villages of Tirunelveli District.
- ❖ National level policy advocacy for Disaster Risk Reduction
- ❖ Women's Rights promotion Education in Tirunelveli, Tuticorin & Kanyakumari Districts.
- ❖ Capacity building on Organic farming in Kanyakumari District.
- ❖ Skill training to the poor & excluded through Rural Community College in Tirunelveli District
- ❖ Micro credit assistance to the poor & marginalized in Tirunelveli & Kanyakumari Districts.
- ❖ Pre-school Education programme in Nanguneri Taluk
- ❖ Sri Lanka Refugees Relief programme in Tirunelveli & Kanyakumari Districts.

### Disaster Risk Reduction programme in collaboration with Cordaid, The Netherlands.

- ❖ Formed disaster Risk Reduction Committees in all the selected 15 villages viz Erippuvari, Ezhankal, Arumaneri, Silayam, Eduppur, Chinthamani, Lathikulam, Kallathi, Padapparkulam, Kunthakulam, Seelathikulam, Melapathai, Moonkiladi, Pachandiram and Pallikondankudiruppu..
- ❖ Conducted drought & flood risk reduction activities such as capacity building trainings to the communities in 15 villages on hazard prevention, Hazard mitigation, risk transfer, elimination of vulnerabilities to multi-hazard.
- ❖ Provided subsidy @Rs 4000/ (four thousands each including the payment of insurance premium) to 602 landless poor families.
- ❖ Provided subsidy of Rs: 20,000 (twenty thousands each) to 18 families and part payment of Rs;10000 (ten thousands each) to 30 families in the flood prone villages for the construction of houses in the villages of Melapathai, Moonkiladi, Pachandiram and Pallikondankudiruppu to relocate their houses from vulnerable area and prevented the risk of flood.
- ❖ Constructed a retaining wall in Pachaiar channel to make an approach road to Pachandiram village.
- ❖ Removed the encroachments and silts in the Nangunerian channel and eliminated the risk of flood to the Moonkiladi village.
- ❖ Provided Rs: 3000 (three thousand each) to eighteen drop out youth to undergo skill training through Community College.
- ❖ Motivated the members to save for the drought & flood period
- ❖ Completed the construction of ten food grain storage cum Disaster management information centres as preparedness to multi-hazards in the villages of Nanguneri and Rathapuram taluks. The villages are Moonkiladi, Pachandiram, Melepathai, Pallikondankudiruppu, Eraippuvari, Ezankal, Padapparkulam, Koonthakulam, Chinthamani, Eduppur, Arumuganeri, Silayam, Kallathi, Lethikulam and seelathikulam.
- ❖ Conducted 40 days of capacity building trainings to 141 farmers on alternative agriculture practices (flood & drought resistant cropping system).
- ❖ Conducted thirty five sessions on flood & drought preparedness orientation to 782 school going children.
- ❖ Conducted one day workshop to the leaders of the NGOs, People's movements on the Challenges of Climate destruction.
- ❖ Enabled the children to conduct a protest meeting at Kanyakumari demanding the formation of Global body to monitor/reduce the rate of carbon by the countries, allocation of sufficient

fund and carbon reduction technology to the developing countries and to evolve a legally binding treaty on carbon reduction.

- ❖ Conducted policy advocacy at Panchayat, District and State level to allocate adequate fund for Drought & flood risk reduction.
- ❖ Conducted 15 public meetings on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction Concept, 15 motivation camps on Insurance , conducted two mock drills in collaboration with Fire service & rescue team
- ❖ Motivated & organized the Panchayat presidents and Councilors of the working villages to undertake PRI advocacy.
- ❖ Conducted Risk Reduction monitoring meetings with the community in all the 15 villages.
- ❖ Conducted nine block level Workshops Disaster Management trainings, one District level Seminar on Disaster Management to District level Government officials as requested by UNDP, Tamil Nadu State unit.
- ❖ Conducted three sessions on Disaster Management for the Fire service cum rescue personnel of Kanyakumari District.
- ❖ Advocates A.Maria Stephen and C.M.Gerald participated in the two weeks international Course on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction held in Manila. Mr. Austin & Mr.Bharathy attended the two weeks Course on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction held in Bhuj. Mr.Maria James & Ms.Subashni attended the third CMDRR learning cycle workshop held in Port Blair.

### **Drought Risk Reduction - Indicators of Achievement:**

- ❖ 101 farmers are practicing organic farming as drought resistant cropping system.
- ❖ 826 families have savings to be used in the drought period.
- ❖ 166 families availed micro credit Rs. 4, 84,000/- from the savings amount and from banks.
- ❖ Community readiness and individual survivability capacities enhanced through the motivation of DRR task force team.
- ❖ 589 children acquired additional follow up knowledge on climate destruction and challenge.
- ❖ Income of the 31 differentially able persons increased their income from Rs. 700/- to Rs. 1750/- per month.
- ❖ 690 persons received 72 days of employment and are earning Rs. 100/- per day.
- ❖ 78 youth acquired employable skill training and are earning an average income of Rs. 5000/- per month. 279 families insured their life and transferred their life risk. Out of these dependants of three deceased persons received Rs. 46,495/- as claim.
- ❖ 320 families improved their preparedness through food grain savings in their homes.
- ❖ DRR concept disseminated to PRI's Government official in Kanyakumari District, NGO's and People's movements.
- ❖ 602 women and poor got subsidy for the purchase of cattle and are earning an amount of Rs. 1200/- per month.
- ❖ Ten villages have Disaster Management centres and food grain storage centres.

### **Flood Risk Reduction - Indicators of Achievement:**

- ❖ 18 houses had been constructed completely and eliminated vulnerability to flood.
- ❖ 30 new houses constructed partly.
- ❖ 40 farmers are practicing organic farming as flood resistant cropping system.
- ❖ 15 flood prone villages situated along the Nanguneri Channel reduced the risk of flood through desilting, removable of bushes sand strengthening of bunds by RUC and Kalakkadu Town Panchayat.
- ❖ 203 families saved an amount of Rs. 89,700/- to handle the flood risk.
- ❖ 288 families availed micro credit amount rupees 94,000/- to start various socio economic activities.
- ❖ 64 persons availed Rs. 2, 20,000/- from Government for agriculture.
- ❖ 193 school going children acquired knowledge on climate destruction and challenges.
- ❖ 17 differently able persons improved their income to Rs. 1200/- per month.
- ❖ 40 families started alternative cropping system to enhance their food security.
- ❖ 105 persons insured their life and transferred their life risk.
- ❖ Out of the two, one Panchayat submitted DRR plan to the Government for financial allocation.

- ❖ Disaster Management centres cum rescue shelters are under construction.
- ❖ New amendments were proposed on Disaster Management Act 2005 during the National Consultation conducted by RUC and was placed before the National Disaster Management Authority for consideration.

### **Policy advocacy for Disaster Risk Reduction in collaboration with Cordaid, The Netherlands**

The National Consultation on Disaster Management Act (2005) held in Kanyakumari from 27th to 28th March 2010. This Consultation analysed the components of National Disaster Management Act and its operational lacunae from the civil society organisation's perspective. It analysed the functioning of Disaster Management Act in all cycles of disaster management: such as pre-disaster phase covering elimination of vulnerability to multi-hazard, hazard mitigation, hazard prevention, enhancing the coping capacity of the community and post-disaster phase covering relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The respective roles of all stakeholders: the governments, civil society organisations, corporate Panchayat and the community perspective were reviewed using the prism of 'bottom up approach' during the consultation meeting and evolved the Kanyakumari Declaration March, 2010. The declaration was published widely in the National News Paper (The Hindu) and in United Nation Disaster Risk Reduction web site (solution exchange) to get the global feed back from experts. The recommendations were submitted to the Disaster Management Authority for consideration.

### **Results**

- ❖ Declaration evolved with thirty two recommendations, which was used as working paper at the follow-up consultation held in New Delhi.
- ❖ United Nation's solution exchange Disaster Risk Reduction (Indian team) gave the interim report on the feed back given by the United Nation solution exchange DRR community.

### **Women's Rights promotion Education in collaboration with Misereor, Germany**

- ❖ Promoted fifteen women's Right's Monitoring Cells in Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and Tuticorin Districts.
- ❖ Conducted three counseling strategy workshop for 228 women.
- ❖ Conducted one capacity building training on advocacy strategy for 49 women.
- ❖ Conducted five three days capacity building training programme to 237 women activist on women's Rights violations monitoring strategy
- ❖ Conducted 79 one day orientation on Women's Rights violations benefiting 2664 women
- ❖ Provided legal aid to 53 poor women to get justice to their grievances.
- ❖ Conducted one day public meeting demanding to ratify the convention on torture. The meeting was jointly organized with Women's Collective, Tirunelveli District.
- ❖ Conducted seventeen days mass rallies, campaigns and public meetings during March 2010 in collaboration with other women's organizations in Kanyakumari District & Tirunelveli District (Rural Women's Development Society, Alliance of Tirunelveli District Women's Organizations) and one day conference each (in collaboration with NGOs) in Tirunelveli & Tuticorin demanding to enact the Central law to allocate 33% reservation to women in Central & State legislature.
- ❖ Conducted seven days mass rallies, campaigns and public meetings during November 25th 2009 to December 10th 2009 in collaboration with other women's organizations in Kanyakumari District & Tirunelveli District (Rural Women's Development Society, Alliance of Tirunelveli District Women's Organizations) in Tirunelveli & Kanyakumari Districts demanding elimination of Poverty and violence of women & Children.
- ❖ Conducted three legal aid camps in collaboration with District Legal services Authorities of Kanyakumari District & Tirunelveli District. 504 women participated in the programmes.

### **Results**

- ❖ Women victims of various rights violations are enabled to face their challenges through appropriate authorities. More than fifty dowry harassment and domestic violence cases are animated to the Police officials, Revenue officials and in various courts in Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin Districts.
- ❖ Seventy nine women's Rights violations monitoring cells are formed by the trainees, (including the 15 formed during the year) who have participated in the capacity building trainings conducted by Rural Uplift Centre in collaboration with NGOs; District Legal services Authorities of Kanyakumari District & Tirunelveli District.
- ❖ Victims of illegal custody & torture have got remedies through various forums & institutions

established by Government.

- ❖ Protection centre is available for women in distress.
- ❖ Return of dowry amount worth Rs: 3,40,000 and jewels worth Rs:6,50,000 and household articles worth Rs;75,000 in two cases.
- ❖ One suspicious death case was altered as dowry death.
- ❖ One of the Government servants (Ganeson) was reinstated in the service after 25 years of termination with back wages and other welfare measures.
- ❖ Government of India passed the bill on 33 percentage reservation for women in Rajya Sabha and likely to be passed by the Lok Sabha soon.
- ❖ Sabitha & Saritha (acid attack-eve teasing victims) got justice. The accused was put behind the bars for eight years.
- ❖ Eight years imprisonment was awarded to the accused in Enayamputhanthurai dowry death case.
- ❖ The Central Cabinet of India decided to pass legislation on preventing torture.

### **Construction of Refuge centre for women in distress:**

- ❖ Constructed a Refuge centre for women in distress at Nagercoil having 4600 square feet with the help of Government of Luxembourg through Indesch Patens Chaften, Luxembourg.

### **Capacity building on Organic farming in collaboration with Indesch Patens Chaften, Luxembourg**

- ❖ Conducted 41 days capacity building workshop on organic farming concept, preparation of compost using farm waste, coconut husk, cattle refuse, vermi compost, bio-pest repellents using fish waste and cow urine, bio-pest repellents using medical plants, bio-plant tonics(pancha kavya), preparation of azolla and five days exposure visit to organic farming, benefiting 190 small & marginal farmers of Kanyakumari District.
- ❖ Conducted 10 days intensive training on animal husbandry to forty farmers of the senior batch.
- ❖ Enabled the farmers to protect the traditional seeds.
- ❖ All India Radio broadcasted ten interviews on the experiences of the organic farmers.
- ❖ Several articles were published in the regional news papers on the success stories & the concept.
- ❖ The secretary Participated in the one week international conference on "organic farming and food security organized by Bio academy, Czech Republic.
- ❖ Conducted two-days campaigns (one at Palayamkottai and the another at Nagercoil) against the evils of introducing B.t brinjal on commercial basis: The secretary attended the public conducted by the Ministry of Environment & Forest at Bangalore and submitted a detailed memorandum for the withdrawal of the decision of the Government to commercialize B.t brinjal.
- ❖ Conducted one day conference cum exhibition of organic products at Saral. A set of demands were passed during the conference and sent to the Government for consideration.

### **Results**

- ❖ 190 trainees acquired the skills and capacity on organic farming and are producing food and dairy products for their food security. The following are some of the indicators. 63 farmers are using fire traps in 31 acres, 32 farmers are using bio pest repellents in 15 acres, 25 farmers are controlling pest using enemy pests in 11 acres, 200 litres of bio-pest repellents are used by 40 farmers, cattle rearing by 190 farmers, poultry by 75 farmers, piggery by two farmers, bee keeping by 135 farmers, rabbit rearing by 5 farmers.
- ❖ The farmers are practicing organic farming without depending on fertilizer & pesticide companies, which were exploiting the farmers. The farmers are relieved from the exploitative system and are having healthy food materials produced by themselves organically.
- ❖ The memorandum sent to the Government was considered by the Government and received the assurance letter from the District Collector of Kanyakumari District.

### **Pre-school Education programme in collaboration with Central Social Welfare Board**

Running four pre-school education centres (creches) for the 100 poor children of beedi workers, Dalit, small and marginal farmers in Nanguneri taluk with the financial support of Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, through State Social Welfare Board.

## Results

This programme enabled the children to acquire motor development, Knowledge development, physical development, social development and language development. Also enabled the parents to go for manual work during the day time, as the children are cared by us. Drop out rate reduced, as the elder children are relieved from the younger child care responsibility. The rural children are also able to compete with urban students.

## Providing micro credit assistance

Provided an amount of Rs: 34,19,000/- to 510 persons as micro credit to undertake various micro level activities

## Result

- ❖ The beneficiaries are able to acquire assets such as land, cattle, educated their children, repaid the high interest rate loans, and cultivated food grain crops, utilized for medical expenses and other social obligations.
- ❖ This has helped the women to relive from the clutches of money lenders and enhanced their social economic status.

## Skill training to the poor in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University

- ❖ Conducted one year Diploma training on Desk Top Publishing, House Electrification, and Servicing of Electronic Equipments for 117 Students.
- ❖ Conducting two years Associate Degree courses on Computer applications and Electrical Technician for 88 drop outs and poor students in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi.

## Result

- ❖ 117 students acquired skills on Desk Top Publishing, House Electrification, and Servicing of Electronic Equipments
- ❖ 97 percentage result was achieved during the year 2009-2010.
- ❖ Annually an average of 150 poor students are getting skill training and job placement in various industries and are earning an average income of Rs: 4000 to Rs: 6000 per month.

## Construction of Hostel buildings:

Two hostel buildings having 3200 square feet each, one for the boys and the another for the Girls were constructed with the financial support of Consulate General of Japan, Chennai office.

## Sri Lanka Refugees Relief programme in collaboration with Manos Unidas, Spain.

Provided Relief and Rehabilitation Services to the Sri Lanka Refugee children in all the Camps in Tirunelveli & Kanyakumari Districts.

## Result

- ❖ All the inmate children housed in Sri Lanka refugee camps received books, Dresses, School bags and Tuition Centre buildings in seven camps.
- ❖ Drinking water facility provided on one of the camps (Kaliakkavilai).

## Receipts & Payments account for the year 2009-2010

We have received donations from the well wishers, foreign donors, repayment of micro credit and bank interest worth Rs:-3,22,14,658 including the previous year balance Rs:52,45,793 . An amount of Rs-2,76,14,186/- was utilized for the above activities.

## Thanks to the collaborators & Partners.

We, RUC & beneficiaries whole heartedly thank Cordaid - The Netherlands, Misereor - Germany, Indesch Patens Chافتen - Luxembourg, Manos Unidas - Spain, Tamil Nadu State Social Welfare Board, Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr.Vinod Menon, Honourable member of National Disaster Management Authority, Member of Parliament Mrs. Helen Davidson, Honourable Minister Mr. N. Suresh Rajan, Members of Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly Mr. H. Vasanthakumar, Mr. John Joseph, Mr. John Jacob, Mrs. Leema Rose, District Collectors of Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin, Mr. M. Appavu & Mr.Rajan, Central & State Government officials, Chairman and Members of State & District Legal Services Authorities, ASK - New Delhi, Mr. M. Kandasamy - Chennai, PRI representatives, NGOs and People's Movements of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin & Kanyakumari Districts, Print & Electronic Media News Reporters for the valuable cooperation in implementing the activities carried out during the year 2009 - 2010.