

RURAL UPLIFT CENTRE
Deepam, Thumpaly,
Irenipuram-629197
Kanyakumari Dist, Tamil Nadu.

ANNUAL REPORT: 2012-2013

Introduction:

Rural Uplift Centre (RUC) completed its journey of thirty two years by serving the poor and the marginalized through various charitable activities. It gives me pleasure and joy in presenting the brief activity report and the results achieved during the year 2012- 2013.

Programmes implemented during 2012- 2013 are:

1. Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation in twenty seven drought prone villages of Tirunelveli District.
2. Formation and Sensitization of Panchayat level women's rights cell in three Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu
3. Ensuring resilience among the farmers and school children of thirty villages in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts of Tamil Nadu
4. State and National level workshops and seminars on Disaster Management Act
5. Economic, Social & Human Rights Development of Women Beedi Workers
6. Vocational Skill Training through Community College
7. Pre –School Education
8. Consultancy services
9. Initiative for accountability & transparency

1. Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation in drought prone villages of Tirunelveli District:

Cordaid, The Netherlands has extended its partnership to the second phase of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction programmes in twelve drought prone villages and follow-up in the existing fifteen project villages of Tirunelveli district.

Micro Insurance: RUC is one of the agencies approved by the Life Insurance Corporation of India to implement the micro insurance scheme of the Government of India. One thousand and seventy six persons were enrolled in the micro insurance scheme of the Government of India. During this financial year, sixty persons were enrolled under the scheme and transferred their life risk.

Welfare schemes of Government: Facilitated the potential beneficiaries of all the project area to avail the Central & State Government welfare programmes.

Risk Reduction mapping: Facilitated the community themselves to undertake Risk reduction monitoring in twelve villages. They had updated the Risk Reduction monitoring map, prepared the Drought risk reduction plan and drought risk contingency plan for responding multiple hazards.

Documentation of DRR success stories: Disaster Risk Reduction activities implemented in ten drought prone villages were documented & recorded in video format. The videos were edited to fifteen to twenty minutes duration. One of the success stories video was uploaded in the web site of RUC.

Research on Disaster Risk Reduction: Cordaid, The Netherlands conducted a research on the Community Disaster Risk Reduction activities carried out in eleven drought prone villages and four flood prone villages. Mr. Max Martin, an independent researcher based in London carried out the research on behalf of Cordaid & RUC. Two hundred copies of the research report was printed and distributed to Government officials, People’s representatives, International organizations, donors and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. The research report was uploaded in the web sites of Cordaid, The Netherlands and RUC for wider readership.

Coordination for humanitarian efforts: RUC is one of the executive committee members of Inter Agency Group Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry. RUC participated in two Inter Agency Group meetings held in Chennai for facilitating the follow-up rehabilitation programmes for the victims of Thane cyclone, evolve a framework and action plan for Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry Inter Agency Group. RUC is one of the members of Sphere India, which consists of humanitarian agencies, International donor agencies, UN agencies and National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India.

Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 11):

Mr. A. Maria James, the Secretary of RUC participated & presented the recommendations on “Protecting biodiversity, inclusion of dalits in relief & response during crisis” in the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity jointly organized by United Nations Environment Programme and Government of India, held in Hyderabad- India from 8 - 19 October 2012.

Capacity building trainings on Climate Change Adaptation :

| S.no | Topic | Number of beneficiaries |
|------|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Conducted One day orientation on Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change adaptation (20+20+19) in three villages | 59 |
| 2 | Conducted five one day foundation course trainings on Organic farming (28+53+33+45+25) | 184 |

Results:

- Life risk transferred to 1076 persons. One of the micro insurance policy holder received the maturity claim of Rs: 9000/- (nine thousands) and the dependant of the another deceased (died due to cardiac failure) received Rs: 16800/- as insurance claim from the Life Insurance corporation of India.
- All the 27 villages are resilience to drought and have sufficient drinking water, food grains, savings and availed drought relief measures.
- On the whole, the people of 17 villages are resilience to drought.

2. Formation and Sensitization of Panchayat level women's rights cell in three Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu:

Misereor, Germany has been kind enough to extend its partnership in the implementation of the project exclusively to make aware of the rights of woman and to assert their rights in Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts. The activities carried out under the project are:

Capacity building trainings/ legal literacy:

| Sl. No. | Topics and target group | No. of days | No. of beneficiaries |
|---------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Women's rights awareness generation trainings for Panchayat level leaders | 36 | 1232 |
| 2 | Women's rights violations monitoring strategy for Panchayat level leaders | 3 | 141 |
| 3 | Advocacy skill training for the members of Women's Rights Monitoring Committee | 3 | 184 |

Formation of Women's Right Monitoring Cells: Thirty three Women's Rights monitoring cells have been organized during this year.

Anti-dowry campaign: Five anti-dowry awareness camps were conducted in collaboration with Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. 507 women participated in the five days campaigns.

Legal aid camps: Three legal aid camps were conducted in collaboration with District legal Services Authority. 1050 women and college students participated in the camps. The victims submitted 145 grievances to the Authority.

Campaign for 33 percentage reservation for women: Four campaigns were conducted to ensure the 33 percentage reservation for women in Central and State legislative bodies. 1124 women participated in the campaign.

Results of Legal aid interventions:

Members of women's associations and NGO staff acquired knowledge on women's Rights. They are capable of animating the women to assert their rights. Seventy two victims were helped to get justice for their grievances through court of law and other institutions.

The Women's Rights monitoring cells members are facilitating the village women to assert their rights. The effective functioning and the strenuous efforts taken by the panchayat level Women's Rights monitoring cells and the involvement of our Advocates team are of great support to the rural women in distress to get relief and justice for many of their grievances.

3. Ensuring resilience among the farmers and school children of thirty villages in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts of Tamil Nadu

Indesch Patens Chaften in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg approved the project to enhance the resilience capacity of Children & Farmers from the risk of Global warming in 30 villages of Tirunelveli & Kanyakumari District. The following are the organic farming capacity building training carried out.

| S.No | Topic of the capacity building programme | Number of days | Number of Beneficiaries |
|------|--|----------------|---|
| 1 | Preparations of Bio-fertilizers, compost & Vermi compost | 10 days | 150 farmers belongs to Marthandom, Moolachel, Thittuvilai, Myladi & Kurunthancodu |
| 2 | Preparation of bio-pest repellors | | |
| 3. | Establishment of organic vegetable gardens | | |
| 4 | Seed selection process | | |
| 5. | Integrated pest management | | |
| 6 | Inter cropping & mixed cropping | | |
| 7 | Mulching | | |
| 8 | Fixing of natural nitrogen in the farm & cultivation of pulses and cereals | | |
| 9 | Paddy cultivation | | |
| 10 | Rain water harvesting | | |

- Animated the farmers to avail government welfare measures
- Formed ten new organic farmers associations and linked them with National Agricultural Bank for Rural Development.

Results:

- 42 farmers are produced 150 tons of organic manures using farm waste
- Rain water harvesting measures implemented in 40 hectares area coconut farms
- 17 farmers are producing 200 tons vermin compost per year
- Seven farmers have cultivated vegetables in eight acre area.
- 85 farmers are producing organic agricultural products @ one acre per farmer
- 12 farmers established organic vegetable gardens using the kitchen waste.
- 27 farmers are producing vegetable seeds, paddy seeds, green leaf vegetable seeds,
- 22 farmers are practicing intercropping & mixed farming in 32 hectares.
- 75 women got assistance from Government to establish poultry farm.
- 20 farmers received assistance for milch animal rearing.

- 150 farmers received assistance for green fodder cultivation.
- Two farmers received assistance for establishing green house for nursery raising
- The best practices of the organic farmers were broadcasted by All India Radio, Nagercoil for 13 days.
- Fourteen articles on the best practices of the organic farmers were published in “Pauma Vichada” one of the Tamil Magazine.

4. State and National level workshops and seminars on Disaster Management Act-2005.

Rural Uplift Centre consolidated the recommendations made by the participants during the National consultations held at Kanyakumari & New Delhi on “ Disaster Management Act-2005”. The recommendations were submitted before the Disaster Management Act review committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs for consideration during the month of August 2012. The same recommendations were submitted to UN Disaster Management Community and was published in (prevention web) its consolidated report.

5. Economic, Social & Human Rights Development of Women Beedi Workers

The major thrust of the programme is economic and social development of women Beedi workers of Tirunelveli district.

Ninety six families have availed micro credit assistance to a tune of Rs. 765000/-. Purpose wise details of the micro credit assistance are:

| Sl No. | Purpose | No. of Beneficiaries | Amount |
|--------|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Agricultural activities | 35 | 245000 |
| 2 | Educational purpose | 16 | 160000 |
| 3 | House construction | 8 | 65000 |
| 4 | Purchase of labor equipments | 1 | 10000 |
| 5 | Medical expenses | 3 | 30000 |
| 6 | Petty business | 19 | 115000 |
| 7 | Cattle rearing | 8 | 80000 |
| 8 | Debt relief | 6 | 60000 |
| | Total | 96 | 765000 |

The beneficiaries repaid the principal amount of Rs.2088345 /- and nine percentage service charges of Rs. 151179/- during this year.

Result:

The micro credit assistance has helped ninety-six poor families to acquire livelihood assets, enhancement of family income, medical and educational needs. They are also helped to save cash drain through exorbitant rate of interest.

6. Vocational Skill Training through Community College

RUC provides educational opportunities to the excluded students to get quality technical education for their better tomorrow through

- a. National Institute of Open Schooling, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt. of India, and
- b. Indira Gandhi National University -Community College Scheme.

The following are the details of students benefitted during the year.

| | |
|--|------|
| Associate of Science (Computer Science) 2 nd Year | - 6 |
| Associate of Science (Electronics) 2 nd Year | - 5 |
| Electrical Technician | - 11 |
| B.Com First year | - 8 |
| B.Com Second year | - 4 |

Placement Details of the students:

All the eleven students, who have completed the Associated Science degree course got employment and are earning an average monthly income of Rs:8000/-(eight thousand) per month.

Examination results: The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), withhold the results since 2011, which is causing untold miseries to the students.

7. Pre –School Education

RUC is conducting four crèches for the children of beedi-workers and agricultural labourers in Kallathi, Elankulam and Thalapatysamuthram (2 units) of Nanguneri Union, One hundred children are being taken care off with the financial support of Social Welfare Board. They were imparted pre-school training through play way method with the help of trained pre-school teachers. The children were provided with nutritional mid day meals. Health and medical facilities are provided in collaboration with the primary health centre personnel. Monthly orientation meetings were conducted to the mothers on child care, disease preventive measures and preparation of nutritious meals with the locally available food materials. Crèche monitoring committees are constituted in all villages. The members of the committees are the elected panchayat leaders, community leaders, women's group leaders and Rural Uplift Centre . Half yearly crèche monitoring committee minutes are submitted to the State Social Welfare Board.

Results:- The children increased motor development, knowledge development, physical development, social development and language development. These crèches reduced the burden of the parents in taking care of their children, while they go for manual work: Also enabled the elder children in the families to continue their studies, instead of caring their younger brother/sister.

8. Consultancy services:

- Six pre-funding appraisal studies carried out for MIVA, The Netherlands and submitted the appraisal reports.
- Submitted ten chapters draft syllabus for the Global training manual on Disaster Risk Reduction to be published by Cordaid, The Netherlands..

- Conducted one day organizational Development training for the Chief functionaries of vocational training & production mission, ICM Tamil Nadu & Kerala.
- Provided legal consultancy to NGOs to solve their organization management challenges.

9. Initiative for accountability & transparency:

RUC used to publish the income & expenditure involved in various project activities carried out in mass media. It was felt to enhance the level of accountability and transparency. Hence, a web site (www.ruralupliftcentre.org) having the details such as three years activity reports, three years audited financial reports, Foreign contribution receipts & utilization account, project reports, contact details, recent news, background information on RUC, archives, contact link etc was launched on 19th of August 2012.

10. Income & Expenditure account:

RUC received an amount of Rs:2948653/-(twenty nine lac forty eight thousand six hundred and fifty three) only from various sources and utilized an amount of Rs: 2781690/-(twenty seven lac eighty one thousand six hundred and ninety) only is spent on various charitable activities as detailed in the attached audited statement of accounts.

11. Thanks to the collaborators & Partners.

We, the members, staff & beneficiaries of RUC, whole heartedly thank Cordaid - The Netherlands, Misereor - Germany, Indesch Patens Chaften - Luxembourg, MIVA, The Netherlands, Tamil Nadu State Social Welfare Board, Members of Parliament Mrs. Helen Davidson & Mr.Ramasubbu, Members of Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly Mr. John Jacob, Mrs. Vijayatharani, Former Members of Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly Mr.H.Vasanthakumar, Mr.S.V.Krishnan, Mr.S.Manickaraj District Collectors of Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli, Central & State Government officials, Chairman and Members of State & District Legal Services Authorities, ASK - New Delhi, Mr. M. Kandasamy, Auditor- Chennai, Mr.Kulathooranpillai, Auditor-Nagercoil, Panchayat representatives, NGOs & People's Movements of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin & Kanyakumari Districts, Print & Electronic media personnel for their valuable cooperation in implementing the charitable activities during the year 2012 - 2013.