

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

ANNUAL REPORT: 2013-2014

Introduction:

Rural Uplift Centre (RUC) completed its journey of thirty three 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 2013- 2014.

Programmes implemented during 2013- 2014 are:

1. Organic farming capacity building training for Climate Change Adaptation..
2. Micro Insurance programme scheme for the poor
3. Free Legal aid to poor women
4. State and National level workshops and seminars on Disaster Management
5. Economic, Social & Human Rights Development of Women Beedi Workers
6. Community College for the poor
7. Running of crèches for the children of agriculture labourers and beedi workers.
8. Consultancy services
9. Initiative for accountability & transparency

1. Organic farming capacity building training for Climate Change Adaptation .

Rural Uplift Centre & Tamil Nadu Agriculture University extension centre, Pechiparai jointly conducted five capacity building programmes at Marthandom, Mylady, Moolachal, Kurunthancodu and Thidduvilai on selection process of traditional seeds, nursery preparation, manure management, weed management and plant protection benefiting 150 farmers. Rural Uplift Centre & Department of Horticulture jointly conducted one day capacity building training on integrated pest management, preparation of pest repellors, inter cropping system, soil fertility management in vegetables cultivation for the selected 45 farmers. Rural Uplift Centre & Agriculture Engineering department jointly conducted one day orientation on Government assistant for cocoanut growing farmers benefiting 40 farmers & Cattle fodder growers. Conducted orientation on organic farming for 300 students of Kamaraj Engineering College, Pazhavilai during the NSS camp.

The Disaster Management committees in the fifteen villages of Nanguneri & Rathapuram taluks were facilitated to promote Climate Change Adaptation practices in their respective villages.

Result:

- Organic farming skills acquired by students and farmers.
- Government initiated a study on the impact of pest attack on honey bee.
- Cocoanut farmers received rupees forty-one thousand as compensation for loss of cocoanut trees
- 25 Cocoanut farmers received tree climbing machine under subsidy scheme.

- 40 farmers raised cattle fodder in 40 acres with the government subsidy of rupees eight lac.
- 45 farmers organically cultivated paddy in 11 acres and sold most of the paddy for seeds
- 20 farmers cultivated vegetables in five acres.
- All the fifteen villages of Nanguneri & Rathapuram taluks are resilience to multiple hazards due to their disaster management preparedness & vigilance.

2. Micro Insurance programme scheme for the poor

Rural Uplift Centre is one of the agencies approved by the Life Insurance Corporation of India to implement the Prime Minister's micro insurance scheme for poor. One thousand and seventy six poor persons were enrolled under this scheme.

Results:

Life risk transferred to those enrolled under this scheme. An amount of Rs; 99841(ninety nine thousand eight hundred and forty one only) was paid as maturity benefit to fourteen persons & an amount of Rs; 18370/- (eighteen thousand three hundred and seventy only) is paid to one of the victim's family.

3. Free Legal aid to poor women:

Rural Uplift centre provided legal aid to four women, one child and a man to overcome from various forms of violence and to get justice through Advocate Mr.A.Maria Stephen.

Domestic violence cases:

Nature of case	Intervention of RUC	Result
Mrs. Sheela along with two children of Thalavaipuram under Panagudi police limit were deserted by her husband Mr.Ebanesar and did the second marriage	Filed a case for payment of interim maintenance, issuing protection order, domicile order, injunction for not alienating properties at Valliyoor Judicial magistrate court	First information report filed by police. Interim order passed for payment of interim cost of Rs: 10000(ten thousand) for maintenance, issued protection order, domicile order, injunction for not alienating properties.
Mrs.Babitharose of Therur under Sucindram police limit was harassed by her husband and brother in-law	Filed a case for at Nagercoil Judicial magistrate court for payment of interim maintenance, issuing protection order, domicile order, injunction for not alienating properties and provided Counseling.	First information report filed by police. Husband & wife united.
Mrs.Sakthi w/o Raja was harassed by her husband.	Filed a petition before the All Women Police Station, Nagercoil requesting action for protection order and domicile order and provided counseling.	Husband & wife united.
Child sex abuse	Filed a case for at Assistant Sessions Court Thuckalay and helped in conducting the case.	Accused convicted to jail for five years. Accused preferred an appeal before the Sessions Court.
Mrs. Devi of Puthalam under Kanyakumari police limit was married by an AIDS person by suppressing the fact and caused cruelty.	Filed a petition before the All Women Police Station, Kanyakumari requesting action against cheating, causing cruelty and for payment of maintenance cost and other relief.	First information report filed by police against husband and family members.

Illegal custody & Police torture on Mr.Ramesh Kumar and five other youth of Pantalvilai, Nagercoil.	Helped to file a petition before the Director General of Police-Tamil Nadu, Home Secretary-Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and State Human Rights Commission	Request under process.
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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 the challenges in the implementation of “Disaster Management Act-2005”. The recommendations were submitted before committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the challenges in the implementation of Disaster Management Act & Honourable Members of the Parliament. The same recommendations were submitted to UN Disaster Management Community and were published in its consolidated report. Participated in the National consultation on inclusion of dalits in providing relief during disaster and shared the report of the consultation with the the participants. Participated in the experts consultation meeting held at New Delhi on the review of unit cost payable under National Disaster Response Fund and recommended the enhancement of cost of construction of house as per the standard scheduled rate of Public works department or Rs;2,80,000 (two lac and eighty thousand) as per the unit cost of Government of India.

Result:

Most of the recommendations submitted are included in the report of the review committee on the challenges in the implementation of Disaster Management Act 2005.

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

One day orientation cum workshop was conducted to promote fresh water ornament fish-culture for sixty farmers in collaboration with Marine Export Development Authority, Government of India for sixty farmers of Tirunelveli District.

The women beedi workers were animated to avail the welfare programmes of Government such as monthly pension for old aged/widows/ psychically challenged persons, maternity assistance, and education scholarship, availing civil supply family cards, approach roads, free house and additional drinking water facility. Forty persons of Kallthi village availed bank loans for agriculture activities. Eight beneficiaries were provided assistance for starting income generation activities.

Result:

Drinking water facilities were improved in Chinthamani, Kallathi and Seelathikulam villages. 29 houses were constructed in Kallathi and Seelathikulam villages. Approach road constructed from Ariyakulam to Anumarputhukulam village. The children of beedi workers received education scholarship from the Beedi Worker’s Welfare Organization of Government of India. The micro credit assistance and the bank loans helped the poor families to acquire enhancement of family income, medical treatment and to continue the education of their children. They are also helped to save cash drain through exorbitant rate of interest.

6. Community College for the poor students

Rural Uplift Centre provides educational opportunities to the excluded students to get quality education for their better tomorrow through Indira Gandhi National University. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), discontinued the community College system and withholds the results since 2011, which is causing untold miseries to the students, who had completed the Course. Due to this new students were not admitted for two years associate degree and continued with the existing students studying for B.Com degree.

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. Running of crèches for poor children of agriculture labourers and beedi workers.

Rural Uplift Centre is conducting four crèches for the children of beedi-workers and agricultural labourers in Kallathi, Elankulam and Thalapathysamuthram (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. Annual day celebrations were conducted in all the centers to demonstrate the skills acquired by the children.

Results:

The children increased motor development, knowledge development, physical development, social development and language development and are equipped to enter into primary schools. 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:

Five pre-funding appraisal studies were carried out for MIVA, The Netherlands and submitted the appraisal reports.

Results:

Four NGOs received assistance for purchase of vehicle and one NGO received assistance for communication system.

9. Initiative for accountability & transparency:

A web site (www.ruralupliftcentre.org) having the details such Annual reports, Audited financial reports, Foreign contribution receipts & utilization account, Project activity reports, contact details, recent news, background information on RUC, archives, list of the members of RUC, project wise staff details, success stories etc were uploaded and updated for accountability & transparency to all stakeholders.

10. Income & Expenditure account:

Rural Uplift Centre received an income Rs: 7, 06,911/-(seven lac six thousand nine hundred and eleven) only from various sources and utilized an amount of Rs: 22, 25,171/-(twenty two lac twenty five thousand one hundred and seventy one) only 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 Rural Uplift Centre, whole heartedly thank Cordaid - The Netherlands, Misereor - Germany, Indesch Patens Chaften - Luxembourg, MIVA, The Netherlands, Tamil Nadu State Social Welfare Board, Honorable Minister of State for the office of the Prime Minister Mr.V.Narayanasami, Member of Parliament Mrs. Helen Davidson, Member of Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly Mr. John Jacob, 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, Print & Electronic media personnel for their valuable cooperation in implementing the charitable activities during the year 2013 - 2014.

RURAL UPLIFT CENTRE
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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.