

2000 - 2001

APRIL

MARCH

SUCHI

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE SECRETARY PRESENTED IN THE ANNUAL
GENERAL BODY held on 30th July 2001 for the period from
April 2000 to March 2001 at ICSA, Chennai

Dear Friends

I am extremely happy to present this Annual report of SUCHI. At the outset I thank God for guiding us throughout the year, I also thank our partner organizations for their coordination and support in all our effort towards building a Just Society. Following are the brief account of the activities carried out during the reporting period.

We continue to focus on Peoples' Participation by educating, organizing, promoting good leaders, involving them at all levels of the program.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & COLLECTIVE ACTIONS:

As part of the awareness education and community organizations the target villages were made aware of the existing social & economic conditions in the Society and the organized community sangam initiated activities to address some of the issues in their local areas.

There are totally 50 women groups with 1505 members, 37 youth groups with 596 members and 778 children between 7 to 14 years of age in 50 villages. Village Advisory Committee[VAC] has been promoted in every village with 7 members consisting of men, women, youth and elders representation of their respective village. Totally 50 such VACs are functioning with 750 members.

These organized groups collectively work together for their respective village promotion and for addressing their issues. They also join collectively with their neighboring village groups when the issues are concerned with many villages. During the reporting period following issues were addressed by their collective effort:

1. School and School building - In 5 villages
2. Road and Bus facility - 3 villages
3. Burial ground - 1 village
4. Taking up a issue of early marriage. - 1 village

These villagers also collectively mobilized number of development schemes from the local Govt. for their development without any middlemen involvement;

1. Housing Pattas - 47 families
2. Water tank and pipelines with taps - In 10 villages
3. Electricity - 1 village
4. Cooking gas - 55 families

- The cost of the development scheme mobilized by the villagers are Rs.20,81,300.
- The community contribution is Rs.1,39,285.

Now these groups are being brought together for sharing, learning & working together.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

At the village level in order to promote better MCH care the existing Traditional Birth Attendants are trained to educate the mothers and the villagers. They also educate the community at large with SUCHI health team to promote healthy practices among them and also to maximum utilize the existing Govt. services. Promotion of such health workers and education to the villagers help them to prevent diseases and to seek medical help early. There are 55 such TBAs trained during this period. Out of the 207 deliveries 119 were conducted by the trained TBAs at home and 88 were referred to the hospital by them, out of these 5 were abnormal deliveries, The health team consisting of the health coordinator, health educators and the TBAs, visit the villages regularly, educate the community and conduct health assessment camps for the ANCs, PNCs ,Under five children and the Chronic cases. Staffs and village level volunteers were sent to other organisation for special training in Herbal Medicine inorder to integrate it with our program. Mass awareness program were also conducted on:

- ❖ Water conservation and Environment
- ❖ HIV / AIDS
- ❖ Sports and Games for healthy living.

EDUCATION & VOCATION:

- **Early Childhood Education:** This program focuses on the total development of the U/5 children. Most of the time the U/5 children are left alone or with the older children when the parents go to the fields for the daily labour. The children after the free and uncared life between 1 to 5 years of age feel threaten when they go to formal school, as a result they are timid, shy & unable to cope up with the controlled environment and finally dropout from the school. In order to promote a healthy childhood development the ECE paves the way. We have started this programme with peoples' participation in the year 1997 with 526 U/5 children in 30 villages. The first batch of these children are now in the 3rd std doing exceptionally good in the studies and also in the extracurricular activities they also take good leadership in the schools. Through this ECE program the dalit children of our adopted village are promoted with quality education and total development. The average number being covered during the past 4 years is from 388 to 526.
- **Admission to JCEC School** - This is an educational institute sponsored by a Millenium football champion in Netherlands by name JOHAN CRUFF. His support is channelised through our funding partner TDH-NL who have started a residential co- educational institute at Mathagondapalli, Ossur, in 80 acres of

land with maximum facilities like well equipped spacious class rooms, laboratories indoor and outdoor sports facilities including swimming pools, an educational resource center, information technology area and teacher resource materials. This is free of cost & it is only for the most deprived children among the Dalits. The main aim is to develop the school as a center of excellence in academic subjects, games and sports, performing arts and extracurricular activities. The school's curriculum is student centred to ensure a balance between the intellectual, social and physical aspects of child development based on UNESCO's 4 pillars of learning : learning to be, learning to know, learning to do and learning to live together. From our target villages 21 children (male female 6) are admitted at the JCEC school in Ossur.

The project partners of the TDH-NL are the key organisations to identify the deserving children among dalits and to forward them for admission to JCEC as per the criteria given by the TDH -NL. The classes from 3rd to 7th has already started.

- **Coaching Centers:** The school going dalit children of our target villagers, appearing for the 7th & 10th class Govt. exams struggle to cope up with subjects like Science, Maths and English and also they are unable to go to towns for coaching facilities like other children. Inorder to enable these children to get through the Govt. exam, coaching centers are organized. Apart from the subject these children are also given social education. During this year the results of the coaching centers are 95% in the Xth and 85% in the VIIth.
- **Vocational:** The 2 years vocational training in carpentry continues for the rural youth and there are 20 children undergoing the training.

TOWARDS FEDERATION:

As mentioned earlier the organized village sangams of all our target villages are strengthened well through trainings, exposures & by promoting efficient leaders, who take collective initiatives in their respective villages and as well as at the cluster level. In yadamari mandal networking of the 20 village women sangams have been promoted and we are on the move to form federation at the mandal level in the remaining mandals.

These sangams in their in networking have already started to work collectively to mobilize programs and to address their issues as mentioned in the earlier pages. Especially these sangams participate actively in the Jenmaboomie programs to represent the dalit communities' needs and problems and to follow them for immediate implementation.

To quote an example mentioned above;

In Jogilavaripalli village there are two communities one is the dalit and the other is the high caste village. There was only one primary school for both of these communities which is located in the high caste village it has been in practice for

many years that the children of the dalit village go to the high caste village to attend the school . Though the school is in high caste village none of their children come to this school, all of them go to the private English medium school to the nearby town. The children from the dalit village have to walk 1.5 km crossing a bus road to reach to this school. Both the parents and children were not happy to go to that village for school. This was discussed in the village meetings. Their concerns were - why should the children from this village have to walk to the other village for school, why not we have school in our village. This issue was placed before the Jenmaboomie team, due to the influence by the higher level it was not considered, then the villagers collectively went to the Mandal Educational Officer then they took the issue to the Dist Educational Officer and sat dharna after which the DEO positively accepted their request but then they had to go repeatedly to the DEO's office and got the sanction order to run the school in their own village but they did not sanction the school building as the building is already existing in the high caste village. The villagers collectively decided to start the school by putting a small shed. The officials refused for the building saying that there is no place to build. The villagers identified a common land with the help of the MRO and after which the Govt. has sanctioned an amount of Rs.1,20,000 for the building. Because the unity among the dalit is so strong with good awareness and leadership no one could stop their initiatives.

Each of the programme & issues mentioned earlier has a similar kind of struggle behind its success.

PEACE & JUSTICE THROUGH CONFLICT RESOLUTION & MEDIATION TRAININGS:

As informed in the earlier meetings the conflict resolution program through Mediation trainings and Mediation services has been carried out in order to equip the people with skills to deal the conflict constructively. Through our trainings we reach to many organizations, institutions and villages in deceminating the skills and technique. We have formed a team trained in this field who help in creating awareness on this to the villagers especially to the organized groups like ;

- Women groups
- Panchayat leaders
- Youth leaders
- Religious leaders
- NGOs staff
- Teachers

DRINKING WATER PROGRAM:

During this reporting period in association with HAVE, [an organisation involved in providing support for drinking water] supported SUCHI in drilling bore wells in 14 villages with people's participation, we have completed this by the end of June 2000, the communities were motivated to mobilize matching program from the Govt. like

water tanks, pipe lines and pump with motor in order to make use of the drilled bore to provide continuous sustainable water for them. As a follow-up of the drinking water program we also educate the community on conservation of water and environment. Representatives from HAVE has visited the program and felt happy about the success of the program the community's participation & the impact HAVE has sanctioned another 25 bore wells to be drilled during May & June 2001 summer.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

ANNUAL PARTNERS WORKSHOP & CAMPAIGN:

During the reporting period SUCHI participated in the SCINDeA Networking campaign on **"POVERTY IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY"** a two days program, the first day was a seminar for the member NGO staff and the village volunteers and the 2nd day a seminar with other NGOs and Institution at UTC Bangalore.

TDH-NL conducts every year annual partners workshop with a special theme for NGOs learning and sharing for effective implementation, This year the theme was on **"SPORTS AND GAMES IN EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT"** Our associate director Glory vijayakumar was one of the resource person to present the paper and to facilitate the workshop. 2 of our staff participated in this workshop.

MCC organised a partners workshop on **"VISION, GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"**. 2 of our staff participated and SUCHI was invited to conduct the sessions on the "conflict resolution & Mediation in sustainable development".

SPORTS AND GAMES FOR THE RURAL CHILDREN:

TDH-NL as part of the theme for the year on **SPORTS AND GAMES IN EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** encouraged the NGOs to organise sports meet for the rural children of their respective target villages. In order to make this sports meet a meaningful one for the villagers, children and for the NGOs, series of workshops, meetings were conducted for all the NGO partners. It was decided to conduct sports and games in each organisation for their respective village children, then at the state level to conduct inter organisational meet between the TDH-NL supported NGOs and then an inter state meet at Mathagondapalli model school Ossur. One of SUCHI team won in the state and participated in the finals but could not get through. We hope to make it up this year. During this program 875 rural children from our target villages had the opportunity to come together at SUCHI. TDH-NL along with the partners decided to conduct this kind of sports meet every year to provide opportunity for the rural children to come together learn to associate with others and to lead a healthy life.

FUNDING PARTNERS:

We thank our Funding Partners for their long-term support. We are fortunate that all our funding partners not only provide material support but also walk with us at all levels of the work and take much effort in human resource development within our organisation.

We thank our Partners;

- ❖ Mennonite Central Committee, Kolkatta, USA
- ❖ Terre des Homes - NL, Bangalore, Netherland
- ❖ South Central Indian Network for Development Alternatives - EZE - Germany
- ❖ Indienhilfe - Bangalore, Germany
- ❖ HAVE & CIDA - CANADA

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS:

- ❖ **Dr. Glen Miller & Mrs. Merlin Miller** from USA:
or their support to SUCHI towards the Administration and Director's honorarium.

CONCLUSION:

Our sincere thanks to all institutions, organizations and well wishers for their encouragement. We express our sincere thanks to our funding partners and sponsors for their meaningful support towards achieving the objectives of our organisation. I thank all our members for their support and encouragement. Above all I thank God for guiding and guarding in all our efforts.

Thank You