

Social Unit for Community Health and Improvement – SUCHI

Jodichinthala, 184 Gollapalli Post, Chittoor – 517 422, A.P.

Annual Report by the Secretary presented to the Members for the year ending 31 March 2009.

At YWCA International Guest House, Chennai

Dear Members,

Greetings to all.

I deem it a privilege to present this Annual Report of SUCHI for the period March 2008 to April 09 before this August body. I thank almighty for guiding us throughout the year. SUCHI has successfully crossed 26 years in promoting quality life for the underprivileged community and empowering them in addressing various hindering their development. The strength of SUCHI is that 85% of their staff are from the target communities. SUCHI has given opportunity to number of educated unemployed youth of the marginalized communities, to learn and to acquire skill by working with SUCHI for the development of their own communities and are now at various levels serving the society in various capacities.

SUCHI with relief as its entry in the beginning, faced many challenges and come across success since 1983. SUCHI's association with various social action groups, in the initial 5 years, its interaction with rural development organizations, its partnership with national and international resource agencies and rapport established with the marginalized communities contributed to its growth and development. Further through participation in various workshops, trainings and review discussions organized by the funding partners and sharpened its strategy towards the empowerment of the marginalized communities for life with quality and dignity.

In period of last 10 years SUCHI has reached to as many as 122 marginalized communities in and around Chittoor District and as well as 14 coastal communities in Tamilnadu. The marginalized communities gained identity, awareness, solidarity support, towards quality living including quality health and education. It has also promoted social and infrastructure capitals which are credible, identity and solidarity symbols within their domain.

Organizational Development

SUCHI as a registered society has been periodically updating its legal requirement with state and central Govt. SUCHI makes all effort to work in line with organizations' objectives to achieve its goal by establishing partnership with funding agencies through agreed terms and conditions on the project plan/proposal. With the guidance, training inputs and motivation by our funding partners SUCHI was able to evolve the following policies which were further discussed and approved by the members.

- Child Protection Policy
- Mainstreaming of HIV /AIDS work place policy
- Gender Policy

SUCHI need to evolve Staff Policy, Financial Policy and as well strategic or perspective plan for the coming years. SUCHI needs to focus on promoting local funds for organizational functioning and for maintaining the rural centers.

TRENDS IN STRATEGY WITH SUCHI

As mentioned above SUCHI's involvement with various stakeholders, communities and changes in development scenario has periodically brought in shift in its strategy. However Promoting community organization & social awareness has been our continuous strategy, integrated with various other development needs for promoting quality life with dignity. Though there has been a continuous progress in terms of increases space, numerical strength and solidarity in the community organization, there has been steady qualitative change in their participation and achievement.

Carrying out activities in general concern in the beginning has now become schematic and strategies are followed with community participation for resource mobilization, involving other stake holders, considering the development scenario at micro and macro level for the community we work with.

In to the above addition, the latent productive capacity of the women and men are identified and that make them self-Reliant from the money lenders and land owners for their livelihood towards empowered quality life. Therefore women and youth are ensured with revolving fund to involve in Micro enterprise to promote asset, increase their revenue and savings.

SOCIAL CAPTIALS

The principle strategy with SUCHI is to equip the marginalized communities with skills and capabilities to rise above their level and become leaders to plan for their own development. SUCHI promotes community based organizations, conduct capacity building programme for them, and motivates them in addressing issues that are hindering their development. Following are the various CBOs, and leaders promoted with every community, who are capable and dynamic to represent problems and needs to the higher levels further action and response.

- Dalith sangams (with both men and women members)
- VAC-Village Advisory Committee (both women and men combined one and youth sangam in every village.
- Women groups and Youth groups.
- Trained Village cadres (men, women and youth) with every community.
- Community volunteers emerged with every community.
- Solidarity among groups with the communities for addressing social issues
- Micro Enterprise groups among women and youth involved in small business.
- Improved capacity to resource mobilization through community's collective effort
- Increased opportunity for the marginalized children to **study in the CBSE School at the Mathagondapalli Education Centre**
- Trained community development workers available with every community as potential leaders.

Outcome with Target Communities

- Active participation of both men and women in gramsabha among the target communities.
- During this phase 165 women and 60 men leaders are trained to represent their respective communities for resource mobilization and to address current social issues.
- Local leadership emerge, out of 32 ward members -13 are women 19 are men, 03 women sarpanch and 12 Velugu village organizers and 2 men MPTCs.
- Drinking water problem in 35 villages has been improved through follow up on the drilling bore wells and motivation to mobilize matching scheme from Govt.
- 41 youth given training in various skills and technique like carpentry and driving who are now placed in job.

- 41 Trained community health volunteers, 8 trained preprimary teachers and 10 primary teachers among the marginalized communities are working with Govt recognition.
- Out of 51 trained preprimary teachers, 8 teachers got appointment with ICDS and 7 are recognized as trainers.
- 39 Children studying at MMS continue to bridge the gap in promoting quality education for children of their respective villages. From the earlier batch:
 - 7 children are in their professional courses who did up to 10th at MMS, who are first learners in their family.
 - 2 Boys and 1 girl children from our target communities won the state athletics
 - Among the 14 students so far passed out from MMS by appearing 10th class CBSE board Examination has secured marks above 60%.
- Social Issues and campaigns have been conducted by the community and by SUCHI in collaboration with network (Wage Issue, women rights, child protection, HIV etc)

COLLABORATION

Realizing the need to learn from others experience, share our learning's and for solidarity SUCHI has established rapport with other NGOs, Institutions and other stake holders both within the district and as well out side the district .SUCHI is associated as:

- Member in the Emergency Response Team of TdH-NL supported projects in India.
- Member in the SCINDeA network - A network of South Central India Network for Development alternatives with 15 field based NGO network.
- Association with Matha College of Nursing/Matha Educational Institutions, ManaMadurai Association with CMC Emergency Department
- Association with Emergency Department - CMC Hospital Vellore.
- C.S. I. School of Nursing Jammalamadugu.
- Association with Sankara Nethralaya for Ophthalmic camps & surgeries, Chennai.
- Corner stone Trust, Chennai.
- Association with other NGOs within and outside the District.
- Dalith Resource Centre , Arasaradi

Partnership with Funding Agencies

Funding partners had played and continue to play key role in SUCHI's Organizational Development as well in all interventions to reach and serve the marginalized communities and the society at large.

SUCHI was able to establish good and credible partnership with Funding agencies both with and outside the country since its inception. Funding agencies not only extend the financial support but also initiate learning and sharing from among the NGOs, on National and International perspectives, issues related to rural development and break the barrier for sharing and learning among the NGOs. Mirroring is done to direct and strengthen our efforts to achieve the results with out target communities. Partners and Institutions who have been with SUCHI in the past and continue to be with SUCHI for whom we are grateful to:

- Terre Des Hommes- NL, India Programme office
- SCINDeA Network
- HAVE / CIDA, Canada
- NELINDCO, India
- IndeIn Hilfe Bangalore
- MEC-Mathagondapalli Education Centre
- Mennonite Central Committee, India (Non Funding Partnership)

Micro level Initiatives:

SUCHI during this report period work with 65 marginalized communities with programmatic approach in Empowering the Marginalized towards life with quality and dignity with the support from the funding partners mentioned above.



Community Organization & Empowerment:

The main focus is to promote and strengthen peoples' organizations and towards movement building.

- Collective initiatives based on issues.
- Linking the local community with the Mandal and District departments
- Promoting and strengthening local leaders and women leaders through capacity building
- Resource mobilizations



During this period activities were carried towards the above focus and as a result the following outcomes are visible with our target communities.

- 25 Dalith sangam promoted with 708 members and have taken up various issues at Panchayath, Mandal level and district level.



Cluster level Federation is being promoted, members are involved in various capacity building programme.

VAC- Village advisory Committee -1 VAC/village, with 7 members has been Promoted with every community and are actively involved in mobilizing Govt resources/schemes for the people without middle men involvement.

Gramsabha meetings held in 73 panchayats of our target communities were well attended by men and women with active participation in decision making.

- 251 women SHGs functions with 2810 women members with good identity, collective spirit and with emerging leadership.



- 13 Youth Sangam functions with 180 members
- 30 Trained men Cadres able to express and dialogue with the officials.
- 30 Trained youth as cadres involved in their community development.
- 30 women are trained as women cadres who are also emerging women leaders with enhanced capacity to represent the issues/problems and to lobby with the officials.

Women are in the following leadership position with improved leadership abilities.



- Village sarpanch - 03
- Velugu Village Organizer - 12
- Ward members - 32 (13 women & 19 men)

- During this reporting period Rs. 82,00,000/- worth of Govt scheme has been mobilized by the communities.(Rural housing, water tank, cement road, livestock)

Health & Environment (Water & Sanitation)



To ensure quality health through Self Supporting health Care system, Health Education and training of health care promoters and improving accessibility with the existing health care system.

During this reporting period planned activities were carried out as a result the following outcome are visible with the

communities:

- Trained village level health workers available in every village who continuously involved in health education and first contact health care.
- All deliveries are institutional deliveries.
- Medical camps at the village/cluster level made the community to value their treatment by improved home care and follow up visits.
- 463 Children who are U/5 have improved in their weight through one day care programme and 21 preprimary programme with additional nutritional supplement.(out of 21 preprimary centres 11 communities anganvadi centres from ICDS during this period.



- The importance of physical activity has been recognized by each village. Since, children and youth have started to practice in their regular activities. The same need to be regularized with women and men. During this period 793 women, 256 youth and 1142 children participated in the community Mela.
- Sensitized the community about STI/HIV that made women, men, young girls and boys to clarify their doubts regarding STI/HIV without any shyness.



- 188 PEER educators are trained in HIV sensitization programme.

- 36 PLHIV were identified and regularly motivated for treatment with counseling, 16 were given financial support for starting IGP

poor housing, incomplete houses & thatched houses makes the surrounding a breeding place for all insects like mosquitoes.

- 30 families were identified for implementing household project with direct benefit like construction of toilet, Agricultural implements and livelihood needs.
- Promotion of kitchen garden with 940 families and tree plantation with 28 villages with their participation involving youth and children.



- Bore wells drilled earlier for drinking water purpose, 35 were followed up for further repair and maintenance by the village with their contribution and Govt resource mobilization.

- The practice of open field defecation among villagers predisposes to water born and fecal born diseases.
- Women and young girls continue to live in the same struggling area related to privacy for toilet and bathing which are predisposing for Urinary Infection, STI etc.

Education & Vocation

Through activities like preprimary programme, Primary programme, after school coaching, career guidance and vocational training were carried out towards the above focus.

During the reporting period following are the outcome:

- 266 children between 3-6years of the marginalized communities regularly attend preprimary programme towards total development.



- 520 children access with quality primary programme & over all development among the primary age group.
- 46 youth had been guided to take up vocational training in technical trades (Auto Mechanic, Electrician, fitter and Plumbing) with minimal stipend of Rs.500/.



During this reporting period following outcome are visible with the communities.

- ↳ No school drop outs among the primary and secondary school age children.
- ↳ Parents have started to take active role in the PTA. Meetings.
- ↳ During this period, 40 young women are given various skill training programme like tailoring for 20 and coir making for 20 women.



Still we see few challenging situation exist in the target area. There are schools with poor teacher student ratio.

Schools have poor learning environment, inadequate class rooms, without facilities for water and toilet.

Though children are given free books, they find it difficult buy note books, it costs much for the children to have adequate note books and record and these children feel insecure and inferior.

The children who are first learners find it difficult to cope up/compete with the challenges in the education; it calls for high motivation from them.

Socio Economic & Livelihood:

The main focus of this programme is to improve the social, financial and status of women and youth to make them self dependant for their livelihood.

Activities were planned and carried out in order to achieve the above focus through

- Leadership training for women

- Promoting SHG Federation
- Income Generation Programme through Revolving fund.
- Promote asset and savings
- To regularly involve in micro enterprise and repay the revolving loan

In this reporting period

- 339 seasonal women laborers who depend on the land owners for their daily wage have an additional income through Micro enterprise like livestock promotion, goat rearing, Tiffin stall, Auto rickshaw etc with Revolving fund.



- Women capacity in handling money improved, women dependency on family members /husband for day today expenditure has changed.
- Women have become business oriented, and are role model to youth and men in business and in the collective effort.
- The financial assistance accessed by the elite and powerful ones in the society has been disproved by the concept of micro enterprise for the marginalized women.
- Women attitude towards availing loan from all available sources resulting in more debtors has brought to change, to become owners with asset / business.
- Women have become more aware on calculating interest rate at the bank and by money lenders.
- The gender view on women to go with the routine of house hold work or cattle rearing has been changed with innovative business models.

Special programmes:

Summer camps 2008:

Summer Camps are basically conducted to explore the concealed talents of the children in the village. During this time, the sports, quiz and games were conducted to them in the order of establishing their joyful movement. Apart, from this SUCHI is also concentrating on incorporating basic Personal Hygiene and sanitation among the children by focusing on the health issues at this every young age.



Women Mela:

During this reporting period, 5-10 members of 65 target communities were called for the women mela for their development. It focuses on conducting the following programmes to them. They are,

- Developed Leadership for organizing mela at the village level.
- Exploring their talents and ensuring opportunity for play
- Play for physical fitness and peace.
- Increasing in their togetherness.



Evaluation & Renewal with TDH-NL:

Our long term partner TDH-NL has been supporting SUCHI since 1994 with the focus towards promoting quality life among women and children. Every three years a review/evaluation is done by a joint team. Renewal is done based on the outcome and findings. A joint evaluation was done last February & March 09 and a renewal process is under progress.

Renewal with SCINDeA:

SCINDeA network who continue to support SUCHI since 1994 also extended funding support with phased manner of 3 years as one phase. During this reporting period SCINDeA, after a series of assessment and review process, renewal was done to extend their support for a period up to Oct 2011.

Innovations:

NELINDCO:

NELINDCO is a registered non profit company focus on promoting socio economic development among the marginalized women and youth through revolving fund. SUCHI in coordination with NELINDCO carried out activities in order to achieve, specific results in social and economic aspects with peoples' involvement. This programme was initiated with SUCHI in December 2007. Process auditing was done by Mr. Shankarlal, Chartered Accountant, Madurai.

House Hold Project through SCINDeA:

During this phase an innovative strategy of House hold project has been carried out with direct support for families to bring about visible changes with partial support them SCINDeA for 65 families in 3 years. Through this support families are given support for toilet construction, agriculture implements, Support for IGP and livestock promotion.. Now 35 marginalized families have been selected and started this new scheme.

HAVE:

One of our funding partner HAVE who were supporting only for drinking water programme so far, have come forward with a plan to extend their support for 3 years with the concept of "safe drinking water and sanitation" in collaboration with CIDA, and the project starts from April 2009 onwards each year to support 30 villages for drinking water and 50 ECO-SAN toilets.

GOVERNMENT:

During this period the communities have availed number of Govt schemes meant for the marginalized communities, with direct approach and dialogue. Govt Department especially the local Mandal officials recognize the community leadership and extend their support.

LEGAL AID AWARENESS:

One day awareness programme was organized for women of our target communities, advocates and judges from Chittoor District were the resource persons.

Funding partner & Well-wishers visited SUCHI.

During this period our funding partners visited SUCHI for monitoring, for project discussions and for capacity enhancement through trainings and workshops. We are grateful to them for their kind coordination. We also received training institutes, well-wishers and sponsors for national and

1. Mr. Meru Miller, Programme Officer, TDH-NL.
2. Dr. Sheila Benjamin Executive Sec. SCINDeA Network, Yelagiri.
3. Mr. Michael Vander Hoeven, Head of Finance Dept, TdH-NL., Netherlands
4. Ms. Karin Van Den Belt, Programme Officer, Project Dept., TdH-NL., Netherlands
5. Mr. Ron Reid, Chairman, HAVE Canada.
6. Mr. Gerard Feltham & Team, HAVE, Canada
7. Mr. Thangaperumal Tdh-NL Project officer.
8. Mrs. Navis Jaichithra, Mrs. Jeyalakshmi & Mr. Shanker for MEC & MMS.
9. Mrs. Annie Priya – NELINDCO.
10. Mr. Irshan, Project Officer and Mr. Razuel, Programme Manager (CIHEP), Bangladesh
11. Mr. Shankarlal, Chartered Accountant, Madurai.

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 during this period. I thank all our members for their support and encouragement. Above all I thank God for guiding us in the past.
