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Kanyakumari District 629 901.

## ANNUAL REPORT-1992.

KARD is very happy to present the annual report for the year 1992 a year in which KARD has achieved something along with the co-operation of the people as well as the staff, though we had much disturbance due to a month long rain and heavy wind in our area. Most of the families and houses were affected by this. We have already given in the previous reports and letters that we have organised the people of our villages ( 56 villages in to groups like students, working children, women, youth and agriculturists. We have co-ordinated them in to area wise groups and also we have formed federations this year.

## Non Formal Education:

Though our area is geographically located in Kanyakumari District- the district which ranks first in literachy percentage in TamilNadu, the literates in Thovalai taluk-one of the four taluks in Kanyakumari district, is very low. Because of the reasons that the people are agricultural coolies by profession and Harijans by caste-the two major reasons for their poverty. KARD keeping in mind the need for education to them engaged itself to educate them in a non formal way. In the beginning we had, paid part-time workers for this programme and now we have only volunteers from the respective villages to teach them. These volunteers were given training to conduct classes. The villagers gather together in the evening after their work and it is here our volunteer helps the people to educate them. He helps them to discuss their life situations – their problems: social, common and private too. This helps them to find good and correct solutions for them.

Club meetings and Activities: (Youth Clubs, Ladies Clubs, Young students boys and girls, young working children and Agriculturists clubs)

Our clubs meet every month to discuss and planout their respective roles to bring up the social and economical standard of their village. Government officials like Block Development Officers, Village Officers and officers from the Bank were brought to their meetings and they have had discussions with them. Now after getting the training from KARD on ‘Economic Development’, their discussion with the abovementioned officers helps them to get an orientation to the Government schemes. Now, for the first time in their life, they have discussed such thing- Developmental schemes of the State Government and Central Government that too with a Government Official in their village. (formerly they will have to go to their office wait for days to get appointment to see them. Besides, after having discussions in the clubs on Sanitation, protected drinking water, construction of community centres, (or libraries) pathway to their village, etc. they have started to work for it. They have given their physical help to get them done and also they have gone to the District Collectors Office and met him regarding their village problems. In some villages they have got the work started and in some villages, it is in progress. The Shunmugapuram, Mathavalyam, Pulianvilai, Kannanputhoor, and Senbagaramanputhoor village clubs jointly asked for the repairing of their road and got it. The Sahayanagar, Christunagar, Kumaranputhoor, Athithapuram, Thirumalaipuram, and Viswasapuram villages have got the electric motor repaired, drinking water well and also the overhead tank cleaned after their joint work for the same. The Beemanagar co-ordination discussed the need for protected drinking water to its villages and also the need for cleaning the overhead tank and got them done. It also discussed the need for pathway to the village Veeranarayanamangalam and finding that no effect is there in writing to the officials decided to demonstrate a picketing on the Nagercoil- Thirunelveli Highways. The agitation was led by the local Member of Parliament and all the clubs which come under Beemanagar area participated.The officials came and had a compromise talk with the people. By giving an assurance that the road which has been collapsed for more than eleven years will be corrected and the work will be started within a months time the gathering went to their village. They as a precautionary measure and discussed the second phase of the agitation. But the work was started and completed.

The Kottavilai Area co-ordination discussed the need for a bus for transportation from their area and they joined together to ask the local Transport Corporation and got it after their second attempt to get the road constructed and repaired for more than twelve kilometers. The Kottavilai Area has achieved success in getting the road repaired to the Kozhikottupothai village which is eight kilometers from the National Highways. The Aralvoimozhi Area has got the bus stop near the villages Indirakootukudiyiruppu and Mooventharnagar which is three kilometers away from the previous bus-stop. The Shunmugapuram was successful in tackling a dowry problem in their village. A lady named Devi from Athithapuram village was married to a man in shunmugapuram village. The man illtreated her and chased her to her mothers house saying that she should bring more dowry. The problem was discussed in the local (Shunmugapuram) Ladies club and was brought to the Senbagaramanputhoor Ladies Club and was brought to the Senbagaramanputhoor Ladies Club co-ordination meeting. The co-ordination meeting discussed the matter and took steps to go to the police station and the police compromised between the husband and wife and joined them. Now they are leading a happy life.

A similar case was dealt with by the same co-ordination in the same area in the Ananthapadmanabhapuram village. In Ananthapadmanabhapuram the matter was discussed in the village itself by the elders and the office bearers of the clubs and the husband and the wife came to an agreement to live happily forgetting their family problem of dowry.

Health being and integral part in the Development of the villages, KARD has engaged itself in health activities also. In this respect regular immunisatiion camps were conducted in each villages along with the Government Health workers, who comes from the Primary Health Centre. KARD has identified 1139 pregnant mothers and 1445 under five years of age children were immunised in 333 health camps. This immunisation camps were conducted in the villages- in the common place in each village and it is the respective Ladies club which takes charge of the respective health camps. Our ladies club first of all informs the health camp to the villagers. Then they help the health worker to get hot water and also in registering the immunised cases on that particular day. After that they help the pregnant mothers and sick children to take medicines in the prescribed time. Thus each health camp in the respective village is being conducted with the help of the Government Health worker as well as the concerned Ladies club.

The Federation meetings of the respective group meets regularly in KARD office every month. This federation engages it self in discussing the problems the clubs tackle, and also giving ideas to them, the way in which they should proceed in tackling the problems.

In this respect, keeping in mind, the problems of the students in their studies, was discussed and they were enabled to have night study in the respective villages. Electricity fecilities were provided for them by contributing the electric charges by the clubs in each village. So also veterinary camps are conducted regularly in each village. The reason for the success of their programmes is that, it is they who discuss these problems in the federation meeting and it is they who implement these programmes through their respective clubs. The role of KARD is that our social workers help them to identify the problems, and make them realise that it is a problem to their own member and then they enable them discuss in their Federation meeting.

## Formation of co-operative Societies:

KARD after having elaborate disucssions with the people of our villages felt the need for co-operative societies in our area. So the matter was discussed and as we have mentioned in the 1991 annual report our future programmes, KARD engaed itself, along with the ongoing work, to form co-operative societies. In this respect nine co-operative societies were started this year

1. Aralvoimozhi Brick workers –o-operative society.
2. Thovalai Flower workers co-operative society.
3. Christunager coconut Leaf workers co-operative society.
4. Pandarapuram Palmarah workers co-operative society.
5. Kozhikottupothai stone crushers co-operative society.
6. Mathavalayam-Mat weavers co-operative society.
7. Therakalputhoor potters co-operative society.
8. Santhavillai cocount Leaf workers co-operative society.
9. Senbagaramanputhoor Brick workers co-operative society.

All the nine societies were formed after having elaborate discussions with the people of the respective area. In each society we have fifty to one hundred members. Our co-operative societies are struggling due to lack of fund.

If we provide a matching grant it will help them much to do their work regularly and there by their family income will be raised.

The KARD malar-the magazine which bears the articles and News from the members of the clubs and also the members of KARD helps much in shaping their way to get more ideas on their life and the situations around them. This magazine helps them know about their environment and also the news from the other clubs. After knowing or getting such news through the magazine people begin to think and try to approach their problems like other clubs. Besides, KARD malar help our staff to engage themselves with the people in effective discussions.

## Voluntary Programmes:

As given earlier, KARD is doing a few voluntary programmes purely voluntary. The project Director out of this training and experience has started these programmes.

## Rehabilitation for the Disabled:

We have identified three hundred and forty six disabled people in our villages. Out of these on hundred and sixty nine cases are othopeadically handicpped and that too below the age of fifteen. In our area we do not have the facilities for repairing of the callippers and crutches and that too after one year duration from the date of measurement in which cases usually the aids and appliances will be small in size and the children will grow. Now they provide the appliances, which can not be used which is small in size. Secondly, they provide only callippers and crutches to all the cases and there is no follow – up. Also there are cases which need only some physiotherapy for correction. Formerly we had one vocational training centre at Aralvoimozhi which extended some help to the disabled people. Now they have stopped the programme. KARD keeping in mind all these things, have started the programme. This year one hundred and sixty eight cases have been identified, and, forty eight cases have been contacted and they have come to KARD office and their callippers and crutches have been got repaired. For the tools and materials we have raised local funds.

## Rehabilitation for Mentally Retarded:

The number of the mentally retarded cases is comparatively high in our area. We have hundred and sixty nine mentally retarded children, we have numerous elderly cases. All these cases were completely left uncared and so KARD engages voluntarily in their Community Based Rehabilitation. We meet their parents and motivate them to treat them like their other children and also help the parents by educating them child rearing habbits.

## Rehabilitation for the Elders:

The elders in their oldage, when they reach the stage of depending their children, their children consider them as a burden to them and so they leave them uncared. The elders in their oldage couldn’t earn even for their enabled them to come to our office once a week-every Sunday and we are providing food for them. We collect donations for the expenses. They were given small jobs like cleaning the office campus, collecting the broom sticks which we sell, and get money for their expenses. Preparing thatched cocount leaf etc. We have contact a few medical shop owners and they are donating basic mediciens to the elders for their minor ailments like, stomach problems, tooth ache, head ache, body pain etc. We have o trained health worker to treat them and to handle the medicines.

We have started a pickle production unit out of which we get local contribution. We the social workers of KARD join together and prepare pickle on every tuseday afternoon, which we ourselves take it to the villages and to the town which is 11km away from our working villages. Every Tuesday we prepare pickles for 250 lemon and out of which we sell 65 bottles of pickle. We sell one bottle of pickle at rupees eleven. We get 25% profit in this.

## Farm and Social Forestry:

In August 1991 we got the place for KARD office and we have leveled nearly an acre land and cultivated it. (Paddy has been cultivated we have six cows (calves) in the

Farm. We have nearly thirty goats in the farm, Rabbits, Pigeons, and hen are also been grown in KARD in small scale. The small income which we get from the farm, has been used in the voluntary programmes. If we get a little more funds for the development of KARD’s farm KARD could stop foreign contribution for its programmes.

## Future programmes:

- To strengthen the co-operative societies.

* To Strengthen the Federations.
* Women problems strengthen the co-ordinations.
* To give more Legal awareness trainings.
* To conduct Legal aid camps in the villages.
* To give more trainings on preventive Health.

At this juncture we-the members of KARD take this oppourtunity to thank Cebemo for its generosity, the well wishers for their useful ideas in the construction of KARD’s programmes, the officials of the various departments for their help in KARD’s training programmes and the people for their co-operation with KARD’s trainings.

Thank you verymuch.

DIRECTOR.