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## ANNUAL REPORT 1993

This report is to brief KARD’s activities in its working area in the year 1993. KARD has engaged itself in various awareness oriented developmental and Health Programmes, in its working villages, as the area needs very badly development in the area of Education, Health and Economics. We KARD after organising the people in to various clubs namely youth, women, working children, students – boys and girls, and agriculturists, continues its programmes of Education, creating awareness and training them. Though KARD has been working with the people of Thovalai Taluk, for the past nine years, this years work is remarkable in its history as KARD received more co-operation from the people than ever. KARD feels, this co-operation is because of its approach in implementing the new programme of Lavatory construction. A more detailed report is presented below.

## Youth Programme:

The Programme has been functioning from the year 1985 onwards. As we have mentioned in our earlier reports we have organised youth clubs in all the villages and they have been functioning well with the aim to uplift their village. We have also co-ordinated them and federated them. Now, the co-ordination meeting has been conducted by them-by the people themselves, in all the six areas. This meeting is conducted in the area itself- in any one of the villages in the respective areas. (We have given in our earlier reports that our villages have been devided in to six areas namely,Beemanagar Area, Senbagaramanputhoor Area, Aralvoimozhi Area, Thovalai Area, Ramapuram Area and Kotavilai Area, for easy co-ordination). In these meetings, the representatives from the clubs of the respective area, meet to discuss the functioning of the clubs in each village, their activities, the problems they face during their functioning, the problems of youth, the role of youth in the family, in the village, in the club, the need for education, the need for healthy environment, theneed for good leaders, the role of leaders in the clubs, in the village in the country, the role of a female member in the family, in the society as a boy, adult, husband, father, and an elderly man. Besides these the organisers have also helped these groups in effective and successful discussions on matters in the other parts of the state, country, and world which helps them to learn more about the need for people’s organisations, the role of people’s organisations in the village upliftment, the need for co-ordinating the people’s organisations, the need for Federating them. Also we have given much emphasis in the discussions on the need for economic development in the families, in the villages and that too especially in the working villages of KARD. We have also given trainings on economic developmental programmes. As we have given you earlier, our area is agricultural based and the people are agricultural coolies. So inorder to evolve more income to the family training programmes have been conducted in the proper maintanance of milch animals- cows, buffallows, goats etc. as the growing of these milch animals is very common in our working villages. Besides, medical care for the animals was also given in our trainings. The Federated committee of the youth meets once a month in KARD to discuss the activities of the clubs in the villages and also plan out the activities for the clubs in the respective areas. The federated committee also engages in discussing the problems which the clubs face in the villages and choose ways and means to tackle them. It also helps in the proper execution of the activities of the activities of the clubs in the villages by helping them in the planning of the activities, and also helping them in its actual implementation by making them know the means of implementation. For example, the Federation discussed the problem of lack of protected drinking water in our area and engaged itself in sending the application to the District Collector from each club. It also followed up the petetions and now the work for the supply of protected drinking water has been started. KARD engaged itself in making the people aware of the need for drinking protected drinking wated and it enabled the Federation to discuss it first in the Federation itself. Then we took the members of the Federation to the village clubs. There they – the club members engaged themselves in the discussion over the need for protected drinking water and this discussion was lead by the Federation members. Thus the Federation members help KARD for implementing its programmes. The Federation also discusses the problems in the villages and appeal KARD to propose a project to its Funding Agency. Thus the Lavatory Construction Programme, and also the Community Centre Construction Programme of KARD were proposed to CEBEMO. With the hope that the Federated committee will take charge of the whole activities of KARD’s present programme, a self sufficiency programme was applied along with the fourth year project of the present programme. Also this programme will be monitered by the skeleton level staff in the future years and these staff will be paid by the federated committee from the self sufficiency programme.

## Women Activities:

Women who plays major role in every family, in every society, in every nation, suffers everywhere. She has been personified as symbol of tolerance. Yes, she really is a symbol of tolerance in real life also. But humanity as a whole always treats women in a different way. She is not accepted anywhere in the society. As a girl child she is killed, as an adult she faces problems of sex and illiteracy, as a wife she faces the problem of being treated as a human machine, as a daughter-in-law she is ill treated for not bringing much as dowry, as a mother she gets very little to eat-she bears the whole families famine, and as a grand mother she is treated as an useless creation in the family.

In our working area women faces all the above mentioned problems. So in order to prevent women from facing these problems, and with an ideology of “Educating the women to Educate the Family” KARD started the “Women Education and Development Programme”. Under this programme women were taught literacy and numeracy in a non formal way. This resulted in the emergence of women groups (Ladies Clubs). These Ladies Clubs were co-ordinated and federated. The Ladies Clubs meet once a month or twice a month or whenever need arises, in the respective village itself. These ladies clubs have elected office bearers (Leaders) who are respeonsible for the whole activities of the club. In the ladies club meetings apart from doing the routine work of giving the subscription and listening to the activities of the club narrated by the office bearers, the members were enabled to have effective discussions on their own problems –problems of the women in the family and in the village. They were enabled to find effective solutions for their problems by the WOMEN ORGANISER who goes from KARD. They help the women to find out means and methods to reach their goal of living a peaceful and happy life. Apart from discussing their own problems, they were helped to know the news from the other parts of the world, other parts of the country and also other parts of their village. In this, the women organiser forgets not to focus the achievements of women, the problems the women face in other places, the means they followed to tackle it. By doing so, the members were enabled to hold discussions over that news which makes them to coincide their own problem with the problem of women in the other places and to find out means to tackle their problem and to find out effective solutions, keeping in mind, the women’s struggles and the means they followed to tackle it in the other parts of the country. Besides discussions, they were enabled to understand the need for co-ordinating the ladies clubs and the ladies clubs have been co-ordinated.

The Ladies Clubs have been motivated to conduct immunisation camps to protect their children from deadly diseases. Now the Ladies clubs with the help of the Government Health Workers conduct Health Camp in their respective villages, where, immunisations were given to the under five years of age children and pregnant mothers. Regular Health Camps have been conducted on all Wednesdays and this year 1862 under five years of age children have been immunised through the 386 health camps conducted by our Ladies Clubs.

Besides in order to see the outer world and also for enjoyment the club members were taken, for picnics. This year the club members took the respective organisers for picnics along with them. They were motivated to make arrangement for the picnic – collecting the money for travelling, arranging the vehicle for traveling, putting a specific programme of the picnic etc. These picnics help the organiser in forming a good rapport with the women in the villages.

Women representatives from each club participate in the area co-ordination meeting which forms the co-ordination committee. These co-ordination comittees combine together to form Federated Women Committee. The co-ordinated women committee meets once a month regularly in each village of the respective area. (a cyclic order is followed so that the committee meets in all the villages) . These co-ordination helps the ladies clubs of the respective areas, in tackling the problems of the Ladies Clubs – in administration, in functioning and also in problem solving.

The co-ordinated women groups were federated to form Women Federations. It is this Women Federation which has the representatives from each area co-ordination decides and helps KARD in the training programmes for women, in executing the programmes of KARD, like Lavatory programme, small savings, Training Programme for women etc. The women Federation discusses the problem of women and the need for their development and helps in the preparation of KARDs Women Programmes to the Funding Agency. It was as a result of the discussions held in the federated committee, the Lavatory Scheme of KARD was applied to CEBEMO. Besides helping to propose the projects, these committee helps in the successful implementation and in the evaluation of the programme. The whole programme was monitored by the Federated committee (separate report of the Lavatory programme enclosed).

Small savings being a vital part in the area of development, and the Ladies Clubs engaged itself in the Small Savings Scheme. In this year we have done a little bit more in the area of small savings. We discussed the problem of people getting money for interest (Loan). These people were charged of high interest and they find it very difficult to repay their debt. So these people were enabled to have revolving funds in the respective clubs. These fund they themselves contributed by putting a contribution and subscription to the club’s fund. Now they get loan from the club with very marginal interest of 2%. Where as they get money from money lenders with an interest of 5% and 12%. This year the Federation was motivated to discuss the issue in its meeting and the matter was conveyed to the clubs through the respective co-ordination, to have revolving funds in each Ladies Clubs to get money with little interest. Besides the Federation committee members along with the women organisers went to the Ladies clubs in the villages to hold discussions and to explain the small savings scheme. Now all the 56 villages have started this small savings scheme.

As we have engaged ourselves (KARD) in economic programme we are giving trainings to the women especially those who are the members of the Ladies club and their daughters, we have started a small tailoring training unit with six tailoring machines. This unit is fully administrated by the Women’s Federation Committee. Our area is agricultural based and our women are agricultural coolies. They go to the paddy fields in the morning and come to the tailoring training unit in the afternoon. Some of them come in the morning also. An instructor has been appointed by the Federation committee and the students pay a contribution of Rs. 10/- every month and a sum of Rs. 5/- is collected from them as Admission Fees. With this money the expenses of the Tailoring Training unit – Salary of the Instructor, tailoring materials etc. are met. A total of sixty three students are studying in this Training unit. This unit helps much to the women in two ways – first of all in getting training; secondly, the administrative ability is developed; so that they have the confidence that their club also can have a unit in their village – atleast in their area.

Besides these the Federated womens committee also has decided to take charge of the Women Activities of KARD. But for some years a skeleton level staff should be there to help them. With a view to organise the women and federate them in the other areas of Thovalai Taluk also, the joint committee of the Federated youth and Federated Women have asked KARD to do this. In the joint committee, the decission that KARD should do more work in organising the youth and women who live in the other parts of Thovalai Taluk inorder to strengthen the Federations was taken and hence we (KARD) submitted the proposal to CEBEMO on 8.11.1993.

## Organisation of the Agriculturists:

While doing our work KARD could not forget Agriculturists – Agricultural coolies of our area because, as I have mentioned when the Agriculturists meet in the respective villages they were neabled, by our Organisers to discuss their work problems of irregular work, water scarcity, little wages etc. Also they were informed of new techniques in agriculture, new veraties of seeds, new methods to control pests etc. through the Agriculturists clubs. The co-ordinated committee meets areawise to discuss the problems the clubs meet, the collective issues like wage problem, water protection, maintenance of ponds (lakes) during draught times, etc. The Federated committee meets once a month at KARD office and they have requested KARD to take necessary action to dig the ponds (lakes) so that more water can be stored when it rains. KARD after holding discussions with the Federated committee of the Agriculturists, had discussions with the Taluk officers along with the representatives of the Federated committee. The Federated committee has requested KARD to submit a proposal named “Food for work programme” to CEBEMO. (We will request it reparately)

## KARD Malar:

The magazene KARD Malar plays a major role in the work of KARD. It is circulated monthly to the clubs. It bears articles, poems, stories, informations which were presented by the members of the clubs from the villages. The staff members of KARD and RUCODE India, a neighbouring organisation also contribute materials for ‘KARD MALAR’. The materials published in the magazene were discussed in the respective club meetings and this has become an informative messenger every month for the club members and also enables the staff members to discuss the awareness ideas which are found in the magazene.

## Young Children Workers Association:

With the motive to teach them literacy and numeracy, the young children workers Associations were formed. These children workers are dropouts from schools and they go to work from early childhood days inorder to suppliment their family income.

Young children workers Associations were formed in all the villages and all the children workers were brought to this association. Now the strength of the associations varies from sixteen to fifty. These children had to work in hard day light on all week days from morning six O’ clock to evening six O’ clock ((i.e) from sun rise to sun set they have to work). As the child labourers are cheap and more work can be extracted and they will not be problamatic these business people prefer children than adults and elders. Also, they can be asked to work on Sundays. Now KARD has discussed in the staff meeting and has now decided to conduct the working children’s Association meeting only on Sundays. Also we have asked them to see the T.V. Programme on Sunday and report it in the next meeting. So in the ajanda of the Young Children Workers Association meeting a review of the Sunday’s T.V.Programme is included and our Organisers does this without fail. This helps the children from preventing them in working on Sundays and helps them to grow their intellectual skills. In this attempt we have succeeded in preventing them going for work on Sundays. Also we have encouraged savings in the Young Children Workers Associations. This money is kept separately in the club itself (as the amount is small and as they do not have time to go to the bank or post office to operate the account) inorder to get it in the times of crisis. They make use of this money to buy new dress for them during festival times. They make use of this money to buy ornaments like, chains for the need, earrings etc. locally made out of cheap, materials. The next issue the Young Children Workers Association have taken is to have a lavatory in the work place. For this we have been organising them slowly to perform a one day protest – not to go to work on that day. The representatives have already discussed this with the owners of the brick kiln, crusher etc. We hope this programme will also be a successful one in the next year.

## Young Students Movements:

With the ideology to prepare the people to work for their village upliftment, from their childhood days itself we have organised the young students both boys and girls separately. We have formed associations for them separately and made them meet once a month in the respective village itself to discuss the village situations and also to discuss their role along with the other clubs in the villages to uplift the respective villages. Besides these students were enabled by our staff to develop their general knowledge by encouraging them to read newspapers and the students were helped to hold discussions on world matters. They were also assigned the work of reporting the news they have read in the newspapers, in the club meetings. So when all of them share the news they have read more news will be known to them.

As these students have very little facilities to study in their houses, Night study classes were started. These classes have been conducted in the common place – in some villages in the community hall. In some villages, in the street under the street light where there is no community centre or common reading room. In some villages in the churches and in some villages in a private man’s house where he offers a light facility. These classes have been supervised by the club members who are educated and interested in educating the others. In the future years they will manage to run the programme independantly. These Young Students Movements have been co-ordinated and these co-ordination committee meets every month in the respective areas. We could not form effective and stable Federated committee for students as when the girl children come to age – say after eighth or ninth standard they were not send to school. So is the case with the boys. When they reach tenth standard some of them go to Nagercoil for their higher studies. They come home late at night and they have to concentrate on studies. The rest of them who are not afford to spend money for their studies go for work as coolies. Hence we could not form Federations and make them meet together.

While KARD is working with the people of Thovalai Taluk, we could see some depressed people in our working area namely disabled, mentally retanded and the destibute Elders quiet in large numbers. As the Director of Programme has got training and experience in repairing the mobility aids of the disabled children, as he is trained in the Rehabilitation work of the mentally retarded children, as the Director of KARD is trained in the Rehabilitation programmes of the Elders, KARD engaged itself in a few voluntary programmes namely, Rehabilitation for the Physically Handicapped children, Rehabilitation for the Mentally Retarded Children and Rehabilitation for the Destitute Elders. KARD has been running the above mentioned three programmes as voluntary programmes as no assistance is sought.

Rehabilitation for the Disabled Children: (Voluntary Programme)

The title of the programme itself clearly tells that the programme is meant only for the disabled children. We have already given in our earlier reports that one Mr. Sundar Egbert who himself is a disabled man was working in a vocational Training Centre at Aralvoimozhi (which fells under our working area). Though he was working in a Vocational Training Centre he is interested in disabled children, mainly affected by Polio. He used to help our children in repairing and giving new mobility aids namely, calipers, crutches, special shoes, Brace belts etc., when he was in the Vocational Training Centre. He was retired and he had left the centre. Now we were compelled to help the disabled children in the repairing work. As we had no funds we could not proceed beyond this and we charged them for repairing, and thus met the expenses.

This year we organised the parents of the disabled children and enabled them to gather at KARD. This meeting is remarkable because this meeting decided to contribute for giving education materials like dress, (uniform) note books, books, and writing materials. We have supplied study materials for twenty one disabled children who were left uncared by the family, who were not send to school because of poverty. We raised funds from well wishers, from the clubs, and the parents of the disabled children and helped the children for their study materials.

In the future years we – along with the parents have decided to do the programme elaborately covering all the disabled children of the working villages of KARD by requesting the assistance from Cebemo.

Rehabilitation for the Mentally Retarded Children:(Voluntary Programme)

In our experience in the area we could identify a few mentally retarded children. We could not do anything for them because it is entirely a different area where we have no knowledge at all. But we could not leave them without extending any help to them. Mostly the parents were in the extreme wexed stage – they would have taken their children to almost all the local heelers. They do not know the reason for the mental retardation of their children. Even we – the staff members of KARD does not dnow anything about Mental Retardation and its rehabilitation. It was at that time in February 1993 the Director of KARD attended a training on Identification of Mentally Retarded Children at Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu, Madras, and thus got the relationship of Spastic Society People. The Spastic Society people in return as per the request of the Director of KARD came to KARD to give a training to our staff to identify the Mentally Retarded Children. The staff of KARD discussed the cause for mental retardation and the nature of the affected children to the club members. This helped the club members to identify the children with mental retardation. Slowly we engaged ourselves in giving community based rehabilitation to them. The parents of the Mentally Retarded Children were brought to the centre (KARD) and we had a discussion with them. As a result of the discussion, the parents began to bring their children one by one. The children were brought to KARD on all the days and we help them by making them mingly with others –first of all with the staff of KARD. Seeing the improvement in them more children were brought to KARD in the morning and they were taken back in the evening.

We hope the programme can be improved if financial assistance is provided.

Rehabilitation for the Destitute Elders: (Voluntary Programme)

We could see many destitute elders in the area who were left uncared by anybody and left alone. These destitute elders struggled even for one meal a day. The members of KARD discussed the problem of the Elders in the villages. These elders were brought to KARD and had discussions with them. The outcome of the discussion was that they are struggling for food, (they does not get even one meal a day) and health care. We, the KARD staff members discussed and approached well wishers and we got some money. With this money we have started a small pickle unit and with the income we get from the pickle unit we are providing food for twenty four distitute elders, once a week. Besides, a medical shop owner has agreed to help the elders by providing basic medicines – for head ache, indigestion, gas trouble, cotton and bandage for the wounds, stomach ache, tooth ache, fever, etc. Now this clinic is available on all the days except during night. This year we have provided one set of dress for the destitute elders by mobilising local fund.

We hope we will do better in the future years. If the funding agency helps KARD for this programme we are sure we will do a better care for the destitute elders.

Farm and Social Forestry: (Voluntary Programme)

We have been giving income generative trainings for the women, youth, children and Agriculturists. We have collected samples of cows, goats, pigs, hen, rabbits, pigeons, fish etc. in our centre to show it to the trainees during the income generative training programmes. The resource persons use these sample animals to demonstrate or to suppliment their lectures. During every training programme, the trainees were taken round KARD campus to explain the methods we follow to keep the animals neat and healthy to get good yield. The cheap maintenance methods are explained to get more income. Also we are selling the breeds to the people of our area to grow and get more income to suppliment the family income.

Again, the social forestry scheme is also there with the motive of getting good rain. Because, water is more essential, as our area is agricultural based. We are growing seedlings and supplying them to the villages through the clubs. The clubs in memory of every function they celebrate in the respective villages, they plant a tree. We take this opportunity to thank CEBEMO, our funding Agency, for its generosity and the staff of Cebemo for their guidance to execute our programmes. We thank the Staff of KARD and its members and also the well wishers who co-operate with KARD’s functioning.

Thank you,

PROJECT DIRECTOR.