Thirupathisaram & P.o.,

Kanyakumari District

## ANNUAL REPORT 1996.

We are happy to brief in this report our activities in the working villages in the year 1996. As we have mentioned in the earlier reports our area needs much concentration in the fields of education, Health and Economical development. The

target groups are youth, women, young children workers, young students – boys and girls, agriculturists, Disabled and Destitute elders. Like last year we received much co-operation from the people. We are very happy to submit a detailed report on our programmes.

## Our Programmes:

1. Awareness cum Integrated Health programme for women.
2. Awareness cum Integrated Economic programme for the youth.
3. Awareness cum Integrated Health and Economic programme for the child laborers.
4. Associations for the Agriculturists.
5. Organisation of the young students.
6. Rehabilitation programme for the physically Handicapped.
7. Rehabilitation programme for the Destitute Elders.
8. Rehabilitation programme for the Mentally Retarded.

## Awareness cum Integrated Health programme for women:

This programme has been implemented to bring out the women problems and help women tackle them by themselves. Also with a motive to bring unity and integrity among them. Ideas have been given to engage women in the village developmental works and they have started working for their village development after discussing the matters in the concerned club meeting (in the village ladies club meeting , in the co-ordination or in the Federation). 49of our village ladies clubs are meeting regularly without the assistance of our organizer. All that our organizer have to do is to attend the concerned meeting and give new ideas for them to discuss. Women’s role in the society, need for preventive health, neatness, Mother and child health, first aid etc. were the main topics discussed this year.

## Some of the activities:

Women, who engaged themselves in discussing need for protected drinking water in the club meetings, last year, engaged themselves in action this year. They after discussing the problem of lack of protected drinking water in the Federation took the matter to the co-ordination of the concerned areas and the co-ordination committee took

the issue and they discussed the matter elaborately along with the other co-coordinated committees namely youth, young students, Agriculturists, and young child laborers and started cleaning the existing four high level water tanks. Also they cleaned the wells’ of the rest of the drinking water wells and (except only one overhead tack) all the overhead tanks were cleaned.

Need for immunization and mother and child health was discussed in the Federated committee and the respective village ladies clubs were asked to identify the children below the age of five years and the pregnant mothers. The mothers pay special attention to the immunization camps conducted by the Government Health Workers. Apart from this the federated committee has engaged itself in the problem solving activities. It engaged itself in settling family problems,- between husband and wife, due to various reasons.

## Mother and Child Health:

Due to lack of transportation facilities and also due to lack of economic facilities the pregnant mothers could not be treated properly which results in the death of mothers and children during delivery. In order to prevent infant mortality and death of mothers this programme was started from this year on wards. We have appointed ten “Local Dhais” to help our Health Worker who goes from KARD in educating the mothers and also in helping the mothers to have a safe delivery. This team in the initial stages engaged itself along with the Ladies club members in identifying the pregnant mothers and children. They have started educating the mothers to eat healthy food during pregnancy, to get vaccinated Tetanus Toxiod, to the mothers and also to get vaccinated their children against the deadly diseases like Tetanus, Measles, Tuberculosis, Diptheria, Percusis, and also to give drops to prevent polio. This year on thousand on hundred and eleven children were immunized (586 male and 525 female) so far 361 pregnant mothers have been identified. This year after getting training our Dhais have attend 11 deliveries. The mothers and the children have been followed up. 27mothers were advised to go to hospitals as the health worker and the Local Dhai suggested that the delivery will be a complicated one.

## Savings:

In order to raise funds to the clubs and thus abolish the pawn brokers system and raise the peoples economic standard savings scheme was introduced in the clubs. The fund was raised to the clubs through, chits, donation through various kinds- for example during harvest season they collected paddy and auctioned it. They brought the money they got through auction, to the club’s fund. Thus all the Ladies clubs are having funds and these fund ranges from Rs.800/- to Rs.14,000/-. They are giving these funds to the people for minimum interested 2%. They were getting money from money lenders with and interest of Rs.5% and 12%. If they could repay the money in one installment they will have to give 5% interest and if they could repay only in installments they will have

to give 12% interest. This year the need for having revolving funds in the respective clubs was stressed and they were motivated to raise money for their savings fund.

This year 147 Ladies Club meetings have been conducted and 630 women participated in the club meetings. In all the six areas Ladies Club co-ordination meetings have been conducted in all the twelve months and the co-ordinated committees were attending regularly the Federated committee meetings. The Federated committee meets every month and this year twelve regular monthly meetings and two extra ordinary meetings were conducted. These extra ordinary meeting were conducted one in February 1996 for the planning of Women’s Day celebration and the other one in September 1996 for the discussion to have revolving fund in the respective clubs and its repayment to KARD. The Federation regularly. Kattunayakkar Kudiyiruppu, Kannanppanallore, Muthunagar (Mangammal salai) and Korandi colony are the four villages who can not attend the Federation meetings this year as they are working in brick kilns, flower works, and in stone crushers.

Training programmes – income generative, leadership, Health etc. have been given regularly which helps them play more effective role in the society. The tailoring training unit has been functioning in our organization campus and 30 women from various villages were given full time training this year in the Tailoring Training unit. (Last year we did it as part-time –one hour a day for one student. This year as they requested we did it as full time, as we have only ten sewing machines we could not admit more than 30 students)

## Awareness cum Integrated Economic programme for the youth:

Among the 56 youth club fifty clubs regularly meet this year to discuss their problems. The co-ordination met every month in all the six areas. The federated committee of the Youth Club met regularly in KARD campus and they have conducted twelve meetings this year (one in each month).

The community centre construction programme was discussed in the Federation meeting and the Federation committee discussed this programme in the respective club meetings and they send a request letter to KARD. The request was proposed after having thoroughly discussed in the concerned village club meeting – what they have discussed in the Federation. After that the money was handed over to the concerned clubs. They completed the construction work by contributing their work, along with the masons and carpenters. Almost all the villages raised funds for the balance amount. Thus the youth clubs along with the co-operation of the other clubs completed the community centre construction work.

## Some of the Activities:

The petition given by the Chozhapuram Youth Club was accepted by union commissioner to give protected drinking water and the overhead tank and the well which supplies water to the overhead tank was cleaned on 18.02.1996.

The Balan Nagar Youth Club engaged itself in putting pathway to their village on 21.03.1996. The Senbagaramanputhoor youth club after discussing the need for fire service station in the area have requested the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu to open the above mentioned station at Aralvoimozhi which is the common place for our working area. Now our people have to go to Nagecoul for emergency fire extinguishing service which is far away from their village. For this, the Aralvoimozhi Area co-ordination committee and the senbagaramanputhoor co-ordination committee have jointly met and decided to send the proposal and did so.

The very long request of the Thirupathisaram village putting concrete to their village street and thus maintain the drainage system was fulfilled. The village youth club also joined in the work and thus got the work done to their satisfaction.

The Ramapuram Area youth have been struggling to bring water to the overhead tank which is at Kurukkalmadam village. Even after their repeated proposals there is no hope.

The Kottavilai Area youth Clubs have engaged themselves in requesting proper pathway to their villages. The present pathway they are having is very narrow and hence transportation to the villages of Kottavilai Area is very difficult.

The Beemanagar village youth have engaged themselves in bringing protected drinking water from the overhead tank which is in the caste village. Now though they have tap there is no connection from the tank. The Santhavilai village youth have engaged themselves for having transportation facilities. All these activities were discussed in the co-ordination meetings and also in the Federation.

## Training for Income Generation:

Keeping in mind the need for income generation to the youth income generative training programmes were conducted. 16 batches of youth were given training this year, each time fifty to sixty youth participated. We have given in our earlier reports that our area is agricultural based and hence agricultural based income generative trainings were given. We have already given that we have samples of cow, goat, rabbit, poultry, pigs, seedlings, etc. in a very small scale. This samples helps the resource persons in their practical. For example the rabbit could be shown as a model and its cage and the methods adopted in maintaining them were shown during the training along follow what they got in the training programmes. Now they have started growing rabbits. Similarly, the preventive medical care for the milk animals, (cow, goat, etc.,) poultry and also pigs and rabbits were explained by the veterinary doctor during the training programmes. This helps the youth to develop the proper growing of animals in their

respective houses. The loan amount the family gets from the ladies club was used for this purpose and because they get income from their investments, they find it very easy for repaying the loan.

## Awareness cum Integrated Health and Economic programme for the child labourers:

The group-child laborers exist in our village because the parents do not get regular work and hence while during work season the children were also taken to work along with them to supplement their family income. These child laborers were organised and co-ordinated. The children have to work from sunrise to sunset without rest. This year, after discussing the matter of working on Sundays without wages, in our co-ordination meetings and also in our Federation meetings the children abstained from work and protested not to go for work on Sundays. Now the Sunday working system has been stopped. Besides the children were given awareness training on Health and they were educated on health, literacy, numeric, social matters, need for self employment, need for healthy environment etc. were also taught in a non formal way. Apart from this, they were encouraged to celebrate feasts and functions – local temple festival, their club’s Annual Day, Pongal, Independence Day, Republic Day – in a meaningful way. Television – the media plays a prominent role in their life as they have no other recreation. We could see them peeping through the windows of the lords on Sunday to see the T.V. programme. Some T.V. owners and some others do not allow them. For seeing this programme they wander about on the telecasts and hence they were encouraged to hold discussions on the themes of the television programmes. Self employment training like, wire bag making, bamboo and cane baskets making, thatching of coconut leaves etc, were some of the vocational trainings given to them. These trainings help them in tow ways- one it enables them to choose vocations which are not hazardous to their health and two it supplements their family income without much investment and effort.

## Organizations for the Agriculturists:

Our villages being agricultural based, there is a great need for the agricultural coolies to be organized. Though we have organized, them in to respective village clubs we could not co-ordinate them and federate them in the earlier years. This year we could co-ordinate them in three areas. We hope to co-ordinate and federate them in the forth coming years. There is a great need for the alternate crop system to the introduced in order to get regular job opportunities. Also the clubs have send petitions to send petitions to the Thahsildhar and to the District Collector to maintain the ponds (lakes) in order to store water. Our organizers have been attending regularly the meetings of the Agriculturists organizations, joins hands with the other clubs of the respective villages in their activities.

## Organization of the Young Students (Boys and Girls):

With the aim to motivate the students to continue their studies and help them by giving trainings to start working for the uplifment of their villages concerned the young students movements were organised. They were co-ordinated and federated. Like all other Federations, the young students Federation meets regularly every month in KARD campus and the co-ordination committee meets regularly in the respective areas. Need for education role of students in village uplifment, their role in rehabilitating the disabled, their role in the rehabilitation with the aim to make them save from their early childhood days itself they were encouraged to save and also useful way. Now a days, the students reaching tenth standard itself is a very difficult task in our villages. The number of students appearing for the SSLC examination goes down year by year. In order to encourage the students to get good marks and also to make them complete at least S.S.L.C. we, after having detailed discussions in our staff meeting and also in the Federation meetings raised local contributions for a revolving cup for the highest mark scoring school and also a revolving shield for ht highest mark scoring school in each subject. (five subjects – five shields).

This year Government Higher Secondary School, Aralvoimozhi got the cup for the cup for the highest mark in all the subjects (456). Government Higher Secondary School, Aralvoimozhi got the highest mark in English (85). Government Higher Secondary School, Aralvoimozhi got the highest mark in Tamil (92). Government High School, Vellamadam got the Highest mark in Maths (100). Government Higher Secondary school, Aralvoimozhi got the highest mark in Social Science (91). Government Higher Secondary school, Aralvoimozhi got the highest mark in science (99). Every year the prizes will be distributed in the beginning of every school year on behalf of the young students movement federation committee. In the Federation committee 43 young students movement clubs have become regular members.

## Rehabilitation for the physically Handicapped:

Altogether, we have 182 disabled children below 14 years of age. Aralvoimozhi Area 40 children; Bemanagar Area 24 children; Kottavilai Area 21 children; Ramapuram Area 27 children. With the aim to rehabilitate and help them go to school for their basic education this programme was started. This year with the help of Mr. Sundar Egbert who himself is a polio affected man, we have conducted only three polio assessments and supplied clippers to 11 children, physiotherapy 11 children, crutches two children, physiotherapy 11 children, With the aim to motivate the parents of the disabled children in the rehabilitation of their disable children, parents association was formed. It was they who contributed for the parents association and paying a subscription of ten rupees every month. Going to school is a difficult task for the polio affected children. This is mainly because of two reasons – one, they are neglected and not at all cared by the family members and also by the rest of the society considering them as useless creations of the world. Secondly, they themselves find it difficult to go to school and come back from the school as they need regular assistance of somebody to come along with them-carrying them or their bags filled with books. For their

schooling, we have contacted twenty three local donors who are afford to help the children for their uniform dress, study materials, school fees etc. This year 27 disabled children were helped by local donors. Even with these facilities they find it very difficult to go to school as the appliances need to be repaired very often. In order to get them repaired we have to take them to Tirunelveli which is 80k.m. away from our working Area. (Tirunelveli is the place where Mr. Sundar Egbert resides and he is having his own workshop them) It takes 45-50 days to get the appliances repaired. Till the appliances were corrected the child could not attended school and if the appliances were not regularly used there is more chance for getting contracture in the nerves-ankle, knee, and hip and after that we have to correct the contractures by giving physiotherapy which takes a few more months of regular follow up. As decided last year, the parents association, after discussing the problem of educating their disabled children, started one hostel for the disabled children. where, most deserving ten disabled children were kept to attend regular school which is on the next door of our organization. WE are enabling the disabled children attend regular school who were denied either because they do to have any school in their village. Such children have to go to the neighboring village which is for away. The need either transportation facilitates or somebody’s assistance. In most of the cases they lack either convenience. We select such children in the centre. At this juncture we are proud to say that we are running this hostel voluntarily, with the generosity of ht well wishers and local donors.

## Rehabilitation for the Mentally Retarded:

We have identified nearly four hundred and twenty children of this kind in and around our working villages. We have also organised the parents of the mentally retarded children, and educated and motivated them regarding mental retardation. The parents of the mentally retarded children were organised in to parents Association and this association meets regularly every month and topics like treating of the mentally retarded children, their health care, need for their care, role of the parents in their care, role of the society for their well being etc. are being discussed. As days pass on, the number of children who come to KARD increases and we find it difficult to help them, giving physiotherapy, counseling, and also medical assistance us unlike other children these children need much attention and care.

## Rehabilitation for the Destitute Elders:

The elders in their old age were left in the streets without, food, clothing shelter etc. This is the stage which man needs much attention to be paid. Seeing the pitiable condition of the elders in order to help them the programme was started. This year, the elders were organised and they were enabled to meet once a week regularly in their sub-centres, where our staff joining along with them sharing their experiences-both, bitter and happy with each other and thus forget their worries at least for the moment. We have also helped them to get old age pension. This year we have helped 27 elders to get old age pension and 62 persons have applied for it. We have been giving one meal a week for the elders. Also the medical assistance has been extended by the generosity of

the medical shop owners. We hope to extend the programme sub-centre wise –the elders will be asked to come to the respective area sub centres and there our staff will engage the elders, giving them counseling, medical assistance and meals help. The clubs organised in the villages play a significant role in the rehabilitation of the elders – in fund raising, identifying, helping them go for getting pension,etc.

This year we have opened six sub centres one for reach area. These sub cnetres were the contribution of the people of the respective area and their rent worth Rs.250/- to Rs.600/-. These sub centres are used for conducting Health Camps, Veterinary camps, co-ordination meetings, special meetings from various departments-Agricultural Department, Revenue Department etc., Elders meetings, polio assessments,etc. These sub centres are located in the middle of each area so that it will be convenient for all the people to come to the sub centres.

## Farm and Social Forestry (Voluntary programme):

Our Farm provides much assistance for our programmes. The samples we are utilizing for our income generative trainings, generates little income to maintain the department (Farm Department). Through Social Forestry scheme, we raise seedling in our Farm and also we are supplying them to the clubs and thus help in the kitchen gardening, and also in the social forestry scheme. We hope this department will grow little by little and thus help KARD’s programmes.

At this juncture we thank our funding Agents for their generosity, and their guidance, the consultants for their suggestions to put our steps in the right track, also the staff of KARD for their limitless work and above all the people for their sincere co-operation with KARD.

Thank you.

PROJECT DIRECTOR.