Projects Carried out by KARD

KARD has been working with the people of our District for the past 25 years through various programs, as under mentioned:

## (i). ORGANIZATION AND EDUCATION OF THE YOUTH: (YC)

Under this program with the aim to prepare the youth to work for the welfare of their respective village we have organized the youth in the villages of Thovalai Taluk in to sangas and have educated them through Non Formal Education and have given various youth awareness programs. Fifty-six youth clubs have been formed in the villages and are now meeting regularly in the villages itself, at least once a month, and the strength of the clubs ranges from fifteen to fifty members.

## *(*ii) YOUNG STUDENTS MOVEMENT: (YSM)

To prepare and train the children from the childhood days itself, to work for the betterment of their society, we started young student’s movements in the villages. Under this program we have motivated the parents to send their children to schools to prevent dropouts and also to persue the dropouts to continue their education. Night study classes have been conducted in every village during evening time, as there is very little study facilities in most of the houses. Also we have motivated them to save and a small saving scheme was started in each and every Young Students Movement. This helped them to develop the habit of saving from the early childhood itself.

## (iii) YOUNG CHILDREN WORKERS ASSOCIATION: (YCW)

 There were many child labourers in our project area - Thovalai Block engaged in brick kilns, pottery works, beedi rolling, flower works,engaged in stone crushers, building (construction) works, cattle rearing, agricultural cooli works etc. They were also organized and educated through Non Formal Education. Motivation camps have been conducted in which they were enabled to think of their life situation critically; and we are proud to submit that due to our effort the number of above child labourers dwindled and all are now school going pupils.

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## (iv) ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN: (LC)

 Women play an important role in every family. With an ideology of “Educating the mother to educate the family” KARD engaged itself in educating the women. So ladies clubs (LC) have been formed in each village. These ladies clubs

engaged themselves in a survey work to identify the children who are below five years of age, and help them get immunized. These Ladies clubs met once in fifteen days to discuss about small savings, immunization against deadly diseases, child rearing, nutrition, family planning etc. Every Ladies Club has a small saving scheme through which they lend money to the members of the respective club with a minimum percentage of interest.

## (v) ORGANIZATION AND EDUCATION OF AGRICULTURISTS:

 Our area being agricultural based full of paddy fields and coconut and plantain farms and our people being agricultural coolies, KARD engaged itself in organizing the agricultural coolies and educating them. We have sixty-two Agriculturists clubs. Topics like low cost agriculture; low-cost maneuvering, cultivation of suitable crops in the suitable seasons, etc. have been discussed in the club meetings and that too along with the people from the Agricultural Department.

## (vi) REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERS

Under this program we have enabled the elders of our area to come to the respective sub center in each area every day and engage them selves in exchanging their experiences. This provides them a walking exercise from their house and to the center also enables them to forget their worries and be happy at least for a few hours every day. The elderly people with great interest gather in the sub centre every day.

## (vii) REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

While undertaking the field works we came across a few mentally retarded children and found their situation helpless in the families. So KARD engaged it self in taking a survey in and around our working area. So far, one hundred and twelve cases have been identified in Thovalai Block, 487 children in Nagercoil Municipal Area, 368 children in Thiruvattar Block of Kannyakumari District. Now we have engaged ourselves in educating and rehabilitating the mentally retarded children also, by meeting them in their houses alongwith their parents and holding discussions with them. Presently we are doing it Voluntarily.

## *(*viii) REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR THE DISABLED

 We have identified the disabled persons in Nagercoil Municipal Area, Thiruvattar Block and Thovalai Block of Kannyakumari district. In all these areas, KARD has attempted to prevent disabilities by conducting Disability Awareness Seminars/ Trainings to the community people and thus have attempted to change the attitude and behavior of the disabled people and also the community people towards each other. . We have also referred them to the respective special schools and to the vocational Training centres. We have also referred them to the regular school for mainstreaming them. As part of their rehabilitation we have screened them by

conducting the respective screening camps and have provided the appliances like calipers crutches, tricycles, wheelchairs, mobility canes, spectacles, special footwear, crawlers, etc. and have helped them in their mobility. We have provided them with the necessary learning materials and integrated them in the normal schools along with the normal children. We have helped them avail medicines in the hospitals available in their local area itself. As the result of this work for the disabled people of our project area, we have started three special schools all for the mentally challenged children of our project area.

## (ix) INTERFACE ON DISABILITY:

 In this Project KARD has been authorized by the Government of Tamil Nadu as a Nodel Agency to implement project ID- Interface on Disability – Prevention, early detection and early intervention of childhood disabilities. KARD has conducted newborn baby screening in all the Government Hospitals in Kannyakumari District for early identification. We have referred the identified children to the experts concerned. We have also trained the ICDS- Integrated Child Development scheme workers and also the Village Health Nurses in Kannyakumari, Tuticorin, Virudhunagar, Madurai and Theni Districts on Erarly Detection and Early Identification.