

RURAL WORKERS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (RWDS)

RAMANATHAPURAM - 623503

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT FOR APRIL 2013 –MARCH 2014

Introduction:

Rural Workers Development Society was founded in the year 2007 by a group of public minded leaders those who are effectively concerning in community development activities for more than three decades. It was registered under Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act vide Registration number 93/2007. Its head quarters are located in Ramanathapuram. RWDS is working among children, women, youth, farmers, rural unorganized workers especially Palmyrah Workers in Ramnad District.

Target Area:

State : Tamilnadu

District : Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai,
Tuticorin

Blocks : Ramanathapuram, Kadalady, Thirupullani, Mandapam, Paramakudi,
Thiruvadanaai, Pogalur, Villathikulam and Devakottai.

Vision:

The socio economic development of the marginalized with emphasis on Palmyrah Workers, Women and Children

Mission:

- To mobilize and federate the Palmyrah workers irrespective of caste, creed or religion to organize for their livelihood issues.
- To make them understand their condition and motivate them to participate in their development through awareness generation.
- To improve their bargaining power and to link with Govt and formal institutions for self reliance and substances.
- To enable for adequate health and education to Children for better tomorrow.

Working Areas:

Ramanathapuram is situated along the Eastern coastal District of the Southern Tamilnad. The Bay of Bengal in the east, The Calf of manner in the whole sea shore, Sivagangai, Pudukottai, Virudhunagar, and Tuticorin constitute it boundaries. Spreading over an area of 4232 sq'km. It cradles a population of 12,58,772 Persons. This District is divided in to 11 development Blocks and it has the highest population of urban population among the major districts. The incidence of poverty

and drought highest among the 30 districts. Ramnad has also a population of scheduled castes 28% children compose 27.2% of the population.

Project operational area is the located in Ramanathapuram District in Southern part of Tamil Nadu (650 Km away from Chennai). Drinking water is acute problem. Women have to walk miles together to fetch water, and it is very difficult to get pure, soft and potable water irrespective of Government efforts. In brief Ramanathapuram is a most backward and underdeveloped district in terms of Socio-Economic and industrial development

AREA DETAILS : District - 1
Taluk - 2
Blocks - 3
Village - 52

General Board members

S.no	Name	Position
1	D.R. Chandran	President
2.	P.Subramani	Vice President
3.	S. Sathaiah	Secretary
4	G.Kalavathi	Treasurer
5	V.Soundra Malathy	EC Member
6	G.Pasupathy	EC Member
7	P.Kannan	EC Member
8	D.Kanagavalli	GB Member
9	S.Sathyasekaran	GB Member

Strategy

- Coordinating all the Palmyra Workers in the form of Block, District and State Level Sangams to get all their existing resources from the Government
- Livelihood and welfare of the children of the Palmyra workers families would be focused through the Village, Block, District and State level Association

1. Community Participation

a) Panai Thozhilalarkal Sangam

RWDS a community based organization mainly working for the development of the Palmyra workers and their children. To attain this objective we formed Palmyra Workers as Panai Thozhilalar Sangam in 161 villages, Ramanathapuram district. Totally 2774 number of members enrolled themselves in the sangam. The Sangam has its function as village level, Zonal level and District level. Every level there is a governing body consists of 1 President, 1 vice president, 1 Secretary, 1 Joint secretary and 1 Treasurer. The village Sangam meets every month and the Zonal sangam meets once in two months and the District level committee meets yearly once. In these meetings issues of Palmyra workers, children, women, village and education were discussed and plan for action.



Panai Thozhilalar Sangam Cluster Meeting

During this reporting period, 562 Palmyrah workers had obtained license including 204 female and 358 male. 126 children got education help each Rs.1200; totally Rs.1,51,000. Palmyrah workers from Naripaiyur, Kavakulam and Siraikulam villages three members were got accident benefit from the Palmyrah workers soceity as Rs.30000 *3=Rs.90000.

b) GRAMA SABHA MEETINGS:

Panchyat Raj system a powerful tool for solves the rural problems. In such way we motivate the community to participate in Grama Sabha Meetings and adopt their requirements as resolutions in Grama Sabha meetings. During this reporting period our sangam members had participate in Grama Sabha Meetings in 1st May 2013, 15th August 2013, 2nd October 2013 and 26th January 2014. The details of the resolutions adopted listed below.

Grama Sabha Meeting	Name of the Village	Resolution Adopted
01.05.2013	V.V.R.Nagar, Thinaikulam, Koravalli	New Health Sub Centre for VVR Nagar, Sayalkudi
	Kavakulam, .P.Kudiyeruppu, Ammapattinam	New building for ICDS
	Keelaallikulam	New town bus route to Keelaallikulam village
	Vellariodai, Koravalli, Keelaallikulam, Kanchirankudi	Activate the village health committee and utilize the panchyat funds for repairing the Anganwadies.
15.08.2013	Koravalli	Handed over the Panchayat Level Resource Centre to Village Health Committee
	Vellariodai	Supply of Chlorinated drinking water

2. Child Participation

Children collective

Develop confident and leadership among children we promoted children collectives in the 52 target villages. 1051 children are the members of these collectives. The collective meets monthly twice to discuss and share about their wishes. The children were trained in leadership qualities by experts and we also give trainings Child Rights, RTE, Right to Information Act and other children related laws and regulations. The collectives are connected as cluster level as Koravalli, Kilakarai, Uchipulli, Tirupullani, Naripaiyur and Kavakulam. A cultural team was formed among the children and they were trained in cultural activities to take child issues as cultural.



Children Collective Meeting

3. Ensure Food Security

a) Campaign on PDS

RWDS has the strong objective that ensures the food security to the target villages. Further, we collected data of families not having ration cards, families not listed in the PBL list and we help the community to apply for a new ration card. We take the people to the concern Panchayat to include the family in PBL list which would help them to mitigate their poverty.

During this reporting period 299 families applied for new ration card and 9 families got new ration card. Details of the campaign took listed are: On 04.07.2013 Sangam members met Dr.S.Sundarrajan, State Minister for Handloom,Tamilnadu and Mr.Murugan M.L.A., Muthukulathur constituency and submit the petition for mini PDS shop for Poopandiapuram village, and Poopandiyapuram village people file RTI on this PDS shop issue on 18.07.2013.

4. Pre & Primary school Education

a) Anganwadi Enrollment campaign

Early childhood development is basic for community development. Government provides early childhood care through PHC and Anganwadi. To ensure the services of the Anganwadi RWDS had organized Anganwadi Enrollment Campaign in all target villages during May 2013.

Sangam representatives, Village Health Committee representatives, Children Committee representatives and RWDS staffs were jointly conduct this campaign. The team has visited all families which have 3-5 years children and motivate the parent to enroll their child in the Anganwadi. By our intervention 83 children were enrolled in Anganwadi including 32 male and 51 female.

b) Access and infrastructure improvement:

Our organization had take series of effort to improve the accessibility and infrastructure improvement of Anganwadi. We list below the activities: Campaign on identify the malnutrition children in 3-5 age group in 21 village, Lakshmpuram village Anganwadi prevented from closure because of our intervention. Due to staff shortage Lakshmpuram Anganwadi centre connected with Alaivaikaraiwadi centre. 10 children walk 2km daily for their preschool education. After the six months continuous effort new teacher appointed for Lakshmpuram centre, District level campaign on new Anganwadi and Anganwadi infrastruct development organized On 21.11.2013 at District Collector office, Ramanathapuram.

c) Transport facility

In Mandapam, Tirupullani and Kadaladi blocks of Ramanathapuram district number villages has not having proper road and transport facility. This makes children being school dropouts and child labor. To stop this evil we organize the people to ask about transport facility to their villages.

During the reporting period, Sangam members and Children Collective members had submit petitions to District collector, M.L.A., of Muthukulathur constituency, RTO, Ramanathapuram, Divisional Manager of TNSTC, Ramanathapuram demanding transport facility to Ayyanarpuram, Kannigapuri, Thavukadu, Keelavalasai, Kavayamperumal valasai villages. Keelavalasai village sangam members made resolution on Gramasabha meeting demand road facility and transport services.

d) Welfare board scheme for school children

By our intervention, school and college students had received Government assistance through Labor Welfare Board and Palmyrah Cooperative Society. During this reporting period 162 children benefited among 200 eligible children applied for assistance including 111 female children.

The details of assistance received through Labor Welfare Boards, Tamilnadu Rs.2,60,000 for 162 students of 10th Pass, 12th Pass, Degree students, Master Degree Students, Technical students and Polytechnic students and from Palmyrah Cooperative Society 130 students received Rs.1,56,000.

e) Migration study

Family migration regarding occupation makes School drop outs and child labor. To know about the depth of the evil we had conduct a sample study in 50 migrated families selected from 25 villages. In this a format was prepared and collecting the children data, their status on health, education and vulnerability during February – August 2013. The findings are inaccessibility of ICDS 4+6, school dropout 11+4 from these families. Palymyra tapers migrated for 10-25 km from their villages. They are vulnerable and their children have lost their education.



*A Palmyra Taper family during migration (life style of
6 – 8 months)*

f) Training on RTE to SMC members

Ensure the RTE Act 2009 in our target villages we had planned to conduct an intense training. The training was conducted at Kavakulam, Koravalli, Kuyavankudi, Kumbaram, Manickanagar and Kuthiraimozhi Pandianagar. Around 165 SMC members were took part. Mr.Ganesan, Peoples Watch, Madurai is the key facilitator. In this meetings, roles and responsibilities of SMC members and function of the SMC was elaborately given to the participants.



Training on RTE2009 to SMC members

g) New school campaign

People from Sengalneerodai and Periyamayakipuram villages demand new primary school for their villages. With our guide and facilitation they had give pressure to the Government of Tamilnadu by file petitions to the Secretariat, submitted petitions to Mr.S.Suntharajan, Minister for Handloom, The district collector, CEO, DEO, AEO and other Government officials.

5. Primary Health Care

a) VILLAGE LEVEL HEALTH COMMITTEE

To reduce the infant mortality rate RWDS have been taken more activities. In this regard Village Level Health Committee has been strengthened in the 52 target villages. This committee is for ensure and monitoring the health services getting from Government Health Sub Centres (HSC) and Government Primary Health Centres (PHC).



Village Level Health Committee Meeting

In this reporting period 99 Village Level Health Committee members were trained from 52 villages. The training gives them knowledge on roles and responsibility of VHN, facilities, activities and systems of PHC. They also trained about the welfare schemes which are implemented through the centres.

Activities of the Village Health Committee Members: Village Level Health register maintained with details of ANC and PNC follow up, Motivate the ANC's for register their pregnancy to VHN and follow up their regular checkup, Conduct Health Committee meetings in ANC & PNC and VHN should participate, and Volunteer in Polio Campaign.

Achievements of Village Level Health Committee: Awareness created on birth registration, Healthy relationship established between VHN, Anganvadi staff, village Sangam, ANC and PNC, 100% birth registration ensured in our target villages, and 70 Village Level Health Committee members were actively participated in POLIO campaign.

b) Study on Sub Centers and PHCs Status and Usage of Private and Govt Hospitals

To know the status of Government health centres, we had done a study in 26 Sub Centres in Mandapam, Tirupullani and Kadaladi blocks of Ramanathapuram district.

The study process starts with team formation. A study team formed with the leadership of Project coordinator, and staff and village volunteers as members. A format was prepared with facilitation Mr.Ganesan, Peoples Watch, and Madurai. The other tool used is Focus Group Discussion. The Data collection and FDG reports were consolidated and submitted to the core team consist Mr.Ameerkhan, National Committee member- Peoples health Movement, India and Mr.Rayan, CRY, Chennai and decided to conduct PHC level consultation meetings following a Public Hearing.

As per the plan the PHC level Consultation meetings conducted on 12.08.2013 at Thamaraiikulam, 13.08.2013 at Tirupullani and 20.08.2013 at Naripaiyoor. In this consultation village health committee members, Sangam members, Village Leaders, Anganwadi staff, VHN and PHC representatives were took part. This consultation gives awareness on the current health system functioning in their villages.

The Public hearing conducted in Ramanathapuram. The committee members are Mr.K.Ameerkhan, National Committee member- Peoples health Movement, India, Mr.M.Shankar, Convenor, Campaign Against Negligence of Girl Child – Tamilandu – Chennai, Mr.M.Sundarapandiyan, M.A, B.L., District Panchyat Leader, Ramanathapuram and Mr.J.Sheik Ibrahim, M.A., B.L., Advocate, Ramanathapuram. 25 victims were participated and sharing their experience in HSC and PHC.

c) GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILLED:

- 164 mothers got Rs.700 ($700*164=114800$) as material assistance from the Janani Suraksha scheme.
- 8 mothers got Rs.12000/- ($12000*8=96000$), 16 mothers got Rs.4000 ($4000*16=82000$) and 4 mothers got Rs.8000 ($8000*4=32000$) through Dr.Muthulaxmi Reddy maternal assistance scheme.

6. Preventing Child Labor

a) Child labor committee

In our intervention we had identified 1591 child labor in Kadaldi block. We prepared child labor and Drop out list in N.Kamarajapuram, Periyamayakipuram, Vellpattin, Kannigapuri and Thavukadu villages.



Child Labor Committee Cluster Meeting

We organized 12 Child Labor Committee (CLC) in 1.Kannikapuri, 2.N.Periyayakupuram, 3.Kamarajapuram, 4.Manicanagar, 5.P.P.Kudiyeruppu, 6.Vellapatti, 7.Poopandiapuram, 8.Kavakulam, 9.V.V.R.Nagar, 10.Kuthiraimozhi Pandianagar and Kannirajapuram. The committee meets every month in which Panchyat president, village leaders, teachers, sangam member and children collective members were participated to motivate the child labors. In the committee meetings the children got awareness on need and importance of formal education. Village level child labor movement register is maintained in all villages to follow up children and facilitate them to further formal education and technical course.

During this reporting period 27 child labor and drop out children reenrolled in school and technical institutions.

b) Cultural Festival & Motivation camp:

To motivate the child labor, we organized a cultural festival and motivation camp for child labor. On 29.12.2013 the festival arranged at Kadaladi. 30 Participants were play games like lucky corner, treasure hunter, water ball passing. Representatives from Education department, child line and Panchayat were took part and motivate the children.

c) Triparty Meeting

To stop the school dropout and child labor RWDS had organized a Triparty meeting in which educational dept, parents of child labors and RWDS staff team were participated. The meeting held on 19th Dec-2013 at Kizhakku Nadar Uravinmurai Sangam conference hall, Ramanathapuram.

CEO, Ramanathapuram, SSA-CEO, DEO, Ramanathapuram, DEO, Paramakudi, DEO(Rtd), Paramakudi, AEEO, Mandapam, AAEO, Mandapam, SSA, APO, BRTE – SSA are representatives from educational department. Representative from Child Line, and NGOs were took part. 8 people from villages and RWDS staff were also participated.



Tripartite Meeting

Report submitted in this meeting with the detailed of unavailability of infrastructure facilities like separate toilet facilities for boys & girls with full fledged water utility, protected drinking water, compound wall, additional class rooms, teacher's vacancies, inaccessibility of neighboring school, inaccessibility of bridge school in kadalady Block for re-enroll the child labor, non providing of midday meals inside of the school compound in Bharatha Matha high school, Kanchirangudi Primary school, transport facilities for school going children and inactivation of SMC & RMSA in Govt schools.

7. Palmyrah Tree Plantation:

Promoting Palmyra trees gives as reduce global warming, mitigate climate change and protect the seashore from high tide waves and sea erosion. As per our objective we have been planted 50000 Palmyra seeds in the coast of Ramanathapuram district for last 6 years. This year we planted 10000 number Palmyra seeds in Pudumadam village coast, Pudumadam Panchayat. The event had presided over by D.R.Chandran, Director, IRWO, Ramnad, M.S.Tharvez, President, Pudumadam Panchayat, Mr.P.Subbraj, Asst Director of Agriculture, Uchipulli, Mrs. K.Kalavathi, Treasurer, RWDS, Ramnad, Mrs..D.Kanakavalli, Coordinator, RWDS, Ramnad, are participated in view of Mr.S.Sathaiah, Director, RWDS, Ramanathapuram.

Children's day celebration :

On 14&15-11-2013 Children's day celebrations held at Irattaiyoorani, Nathakulam, Koravalli, Vellarioodai, Methalodai (n), Singarathoppu, Pullanthai, Kavakulam. Vellapatti, P.P.Kudiyeruppu and Kadukkavalasai children collectives.

Conclusion

We were conducted number of program and actions to attain our objectives. Further we would continue our effort on this. We are very thankful to our donors, well wishers, and other supporters. The organization has also thanks the President and the Executive Committee for its commitment. We also thank our staff team and volunteers.