

RWDS

Annual Activity Report 2014-15



RURAL WORKERS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

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RURAL WORKERS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (RWDS)

RAMANATHAPURAM - 623503

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT FOR APRIL 2014 –MARCH 2015

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, Tirupullani, Mandapam, Paramakudi,
Tiruvadanaai, Bogalur, 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 its boundaries. Spreading over an area of 4232 sq'km. It cradles a population of 12, 58,772 Persons. This District is divided into 11 development Blocks and it has the highest population of urban population among the major districts. The incidence of poverty and drought is 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 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	S.Sathyasekaran	EC Member
6	G.Pasupathy	EC Member
7	P.Kannan	EC Member
8	D.Kanagavalli	GB Member
9	V.Soundra Malathy	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

ACTIVITIES

1. Child Labor

Prevention of child labor and mainstreaming them to education is one of our main objectives. We had identified 1040 child labors in our target villages. Among them 70% of the child labors are in Kadaladi block. We had mobilized them as Child Labor Committee. The CLC has been actively functioning in 11 villages of Kadaladi block. In this committee they meet every week and enjoy the childhood. We had facilitated them to reenroll in schools and other technical institutions as the child wish. 24 child labors had release from work and had facilitated 5 child labors to appear in SSLC public examination through private tutorial. 3 child labors appeared in SSLC examination were passed. The children had being part time child labor as they study in tutorial.



Child Labor Committee (CLC) Meeting

An awareness Meeting on Child Labor and their Parents had conducted at Sayalkudi on 23.08.14. 43 people including child labors, parents of child labor, youth, re Mr.Christhreja, a

social activist and high court lawyer had facilitated the programme. He explained about the social and economical issues of the target villages. He asked the people to work for their village children and their education. To develop the village as nil child labor, youth should be mobilized. The volunteers should ready to give out their belongings for the society while working for the people.

Mr.Dr.Sampath M.D. had given speech to Child Labors off Periyayakipuram, N.Kamarajapuram, Veppamarathupanai, Vellapatti, Rayappapuram, Manickanagar and Kuthiraimozhi. He insisted about the health hygiene and explained about the safety measures in work place.

To make aware the public and parents, we had conducted Anti Child Labor Day rally on 15.06.2014 at Naripaiyoor. 50 participants including child labors, children committee members, Palmyrah Sangam members, and public were walked over the rally. Panchyat president of Naripaioor had flag of the rally in which Mr.S.Sathaiah, Director, RWDS had took part.

Health Card System:

To maintain a systematic approach to the health of Child Labors in our target village, we had provided Health Cards. We had provided 23 health cards to the Child Labors in Periyayakipuram, Manickanagar, Vellapatti, Rayappapuram, Kannikapuri and Melakidaram. We take the children to Government health centers and checkup their health periodically.

2. Dropout children

438 school dropout children were in our 52 target villages because of migration for livelihood, no bus facility to reach the high school, no proper health service to the remote villages. We had taken more efforts to reenroll the dropouts and keep watching them.

To identify and follow up the school going children we used the children committee which is actively functioning in every target villages. The children committee has been meet every week and discus and share about their needs and obligations.

3. Children Committee

Children in the target villages have organized as a committee to develop their social education and practice the participation rights. 20 Children are the members of these collectives. The collective meets monthly twice to discuss and share about their wishes. We had given training on leadership, RTE, and comics drawing. The collectives are connected as cluster level as Koravalli, Kilakarai, Uchipulli, Tirupullani, Naripaiyur and Kavakulam.



Children Committee (CC) Meeting

Children Committee Cluster Meetings:

All the 52 Children Committees are connected as cluster to promote their leadership quality in broad. There are clusters namely Koravalli, Kilakarai, Uchipulli, Tirupullani, Naripaiyur, Kavakulam, Mayakulam, and Tirupullani. In these cluster meetings, they had discussed about the children issues and needs as a cluster. If any issue need cluster level approach it will be discussed.



Children Committee (CC) Cluster Meeting

Cluster Meetings Conducted:

Sl.No	Name of Cluster	Date & Place
1	Kilakarai	17.08.2014 – Alaivaikaraivadi
2	Mayakulom	16.08.2014 – Pullanthai
3		14.12.2014 – Mayakulam
4	Koravalli	24.08.2014 – Koravalli
5		11.01.2015 – Ammapattinam
6	Tirupullani	18.01.2015 – Methalodai
7		22.06.2014 – KKK Valasai
8		09.11.2014 - Methalodai North

4. Palmyrah Sangam Cluster Meetings:

To attain development of the Palmyrah workers and their children we formed Palmyra Workers as Panai Thozhilalar Sangam. The Sangam has its function as village level, Cluster 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 Cluster Sangam meets once in two months and the District level committee meets yearly once.



Palmyrah Sangam Cluster Meeting

Cluster Meetings Conducted:

Sl.No	Name of Cluster	Date & Place
1	Kilakarai	24.08.2014
2		21.12.2014
3	Mayakulam	14.12.2014
4	Tirupullani	14.12.2014 – Methlodai

		North
5		04.05.2014 - Umayanvalasai
6	Uchipulli	14.12.2014
7	Koravalli	16.08.2014 -
8		20.12.2014
9	R.S.Mangalam	29.01.2015 - Adandhanarkottai

Educational Welfare Scheme Aailed from Government:

Scheme	Children	Particulars	Total Amount
10 th Standard	0+18	18x Rs.1000	Rs.18000
10 th Pass	15+12	27x Rs.1000	Rs.27000
11 th Standard	0+16	16x Rs.1000	Rs.16000
12 th Standard	0+15	15x Rs.1500	Rs.22500
12 th Pass	8+9	17x Rs.1500	Rs.25500
Degree	6+27	33x Rs.1500	Rs.50250
ITI	11+3	14	Rs.40000
Polytechnic	5+0	5x Rs.1000	R.5000
Total			Rs.2,04,250

Welfare Schemes Aailed Through Palmyrah Cooperative Society;

During this reporting period 458 Palmyrah workers had renewal their license. 126 workers had availed welfare assistance Rs.1200 x 126 persons=Rs.1, 51,200.

5. Campaign on ICDS functioning

We are working for the pre – primary education of children between 3 – 5 years in our target villages. Among 52 target village 36 ICDS are functioning while other 10 villages had no ICDS in the village, the children have to go for other village and infrastructure and functioning of the ICDS is more pathetic. To ensure the proper pre-primary education to our target children we had campaign regarding its function, infrastructure and staff appointments.

RTI filed on ICDS needs:

VILLAGE	PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION
Koravalli	Repair of Ceiling & new toilet facility	RTI filed
Masanapuram	New ICDS	
PP Kudieruppu	New building	RTI filed
Kavakulam	Building repair	RTI filed
Laxmipuram	Building repair	Petition submitted to Gramasabha
Kamarajapuram	New ICDS	RTI filed
Ammappattinam	New ICDS	Petition submitted to PO of ICDS, Ramanathapuram Petition submitted to Mr.Jawahirullah,

		MLA, Ramanathapuram Petition submitted to Mr.Tharvezh, President, Pudumadam Panchayat.
Thinaikulam	Building repair	RTI filed
Kuyavankudi	Electricity facility	RTI filed
Sengalaneerodai	Toilet repair	RTI filed
Thamaraioorani	New building	Petition submitted to Panchayat president, Panaikulam

Resolution passed in Gramasabha Meetings:

Village	Panchayat	Subject
Ammapattinam	Pudumadam	New ICDS
Kuyavankudi	Kuyavankudi	Cooking room
Laxmipuram	Kanchirankudi	New building
Kavakulam	Kavakulam	Repair ICDS
Kamarajapuram	Siraikulam	New ICDS



Grama Sabha Meeting

Achievements:

Name of ICDS	
Ammapattinam	New concrete ceiling and toilet
Pullanthai	Nutrition Day
Periyamayakulam	Nutrition Day
Vellariodai	Nutrition Day
Kuyavankudi	Nutrition Day
Kadukaivalasai	Nutrition Day
Boopandiapuram	New building
Vellariodai	New ceiling
Koravalli	First aid box

6. Study on ICDS & Health Sub Centre

Integrated Child Development Scheme is one of most important to the poor children age between 0 – 3. Because, in this period of age is most important to mental as well as body development as the scientist says. We have been working for

the proper implementation of the scheme in our target village. To list out the needs and issues of the ICDS in our target villages, the organization had done a study about it. The study covers 38 ICDS of Kadalady, Tirupullani and Mandapam blocks of Ramanathapuram district. A questionnaire used to collect data and the opinion of parents, children, public and the staff. We had list out the reasons for none functioning of ICDS. The main reasons are poor infrastructures, vacancies in staff appointments; no proper syllabus is being taught and less importance from the Government department.



Press Meet on ICDS & SHC study

The questionnaire had consolidated and prepared a report on the Reality of ICDS in Ramanathapuram. A press meeting were conducted in Ramanathapuram and report published.

7. Cultural Campaign

A cultural team was formed among the children and they were trained in cultural activities to take child issues as cultural. To make awareness and organize the villagers on the issues of their village, we organized Children Cultural Programmes on 02.10.14, 04.10.14, 05.10.14 & 12.10.14 at Kilaallikulam, S.Kamarajapuram, Thavukadu, Kannikapuri and Veppamarathupanai. In which the cultural team performed Street play, Kummy, Kolattam,

and Folk songs on the issues of child marriage, IMR, Child labour, unavailability of transport facility, Drinking water facility and Health and Hygiene.

In this campaign team performed role plays and sang songs. Around 726 people were got awareness by this campaign.



Cultural Campaign of CC Children

8. Enrollment Campaign

Education is the only tool for the poor and marginalized to achieve their life goal. Our organization has the objective to ensure education to all children age between 3 and 18 in our target villages. We have been promoted education in government school only. We had taken effort to activate government schools in our target area. To achieve this objective, we had conducted enrollment campaign in 52 villages, in which women, Palmyrah Sangam leaders, village leaders, Panchayat presidents and members, Government teachers and children were took part and the rally insisted for enroll all children age between 3 – 5 in Government ICDS and primary schools. Around 5000 people had sensitized about the school enrollment in government school.



Enrollment Campaign of CC Children

9. New primary school

New primary school to Sengalaneerodai and Periyanaayakipuram village is an important need. Sengalaneerodai village is situated in Kanchirankudi Panchayat and 5km far from Kilakarai town. The village had 250 population and 52 children, age 3 – 5, but, here is no school. The children have to walk for 12km up and down even primary education. This situation is increasing school dropouts in primary school also.



Petition Campaign on New Primary School to Sengalaneerodai & Periyanaayakipuram

Periyanyakipuram, Rayappapuram and Kamarajapuram villages has 600 population including 143 children age 3 – 5. These villages are in Naripaioor panchayat, Kadaladi Taluk. These villages have situated other side of Kanniyakumari to Rameswaram ECR road while the Primary school is in next side of that road. Children have to walk for 6km up and down; also crossing the ECR road is being dangerous.

In this regard our task force committee on new primary school to Sengalaneerodai and Periyanyakipuram had taken number of steps. Last year, Sengalaneerodai villagers had filed case in Madras high court of Madurai bench on New Primary School and got an order insited the Government to provide primary school within 8weeks. During this reporting period both the villagers had met with the Registerar of Madras High Court of Madurai bench and submitted memorandum about the issue.

10. School Up gradation

Among the 52 target villages Kannikapuri from Kadaladi block and Laxmipuram from Tirupullani block have Government Middle school. These two villages are 8km far from the nearby town. The children have to walk for more than 16 km daily to reach the high school and higher secondary. There is no bus facility to connect the nearby town. By this reason number of school dropouts and child labor has been increased from 9th standard. Parents are afraid to send their girl children because of security reason.

In this regard, we had facilitated the village palmyrah sanga and the village leaders to appeal school upgradation. During this reporting period petitions were submitted to the District collector of Ramanathapuram, CEO of Ramanathapuram,

DEO of Ramanathapuram and Paramakudi, CEO to SSA of Ramanathapuram by both the villagers. To follow up the petitions RTIs were filed, but there is no proper reply.

11. SMC

Ensure primary education to the target children we are in process to pressure the Government to implement the RTE 2009. For this goal we are activate SMCs in our target villages. To activate the SMC, training on SMC was organized at Kannikapuri, Veppamarathupanai and Melakidaram. Mr.C.J.Rajan, SamamKudimakkalIyakkam, Madurai had facilitated the trainings. 84 people including parents, leaders of Palmyrahsanga were benefitted from this training. The facilitator had explained how the SMC derived from the RTE 2009 and the function, roles and responsibility of the committee



Training on SMC to Parents

12. Science Exhibition:

To give a space on participation and creativity we had organized science exhibition in our target villages. The exhibition was conducted in three places. Block level Science Exhibition of Children Committee were held at Uchipuli, Sayalkudi and Tirupullani on 26.12.14, 27.12.14 and 28.12.14. 111 children and 40 parents were

took part. Children were displayed water pollution, heart and function, wind mill for home, salt water and current, lift operation, five lands, Rocket's function, grinder, zoo and –Volcano.



Science Exhibition by CC Children

13. Children Day Celebration:

Children day was celebrated in Chinnaretaioorani, Nathakulam, Thmaraioorani, Samayanvalasai, Sengalaneerodai, Methalodai North & South, Laxmipuram, Periyamayakulam, Maruthanthoppu, Manikanagar, Kilaallikulam and Alaivaikaravadi during this month in which members from Palmyrah Sangam, Representatives of Panchayats, Youths and CC children were took part. Children were given with prizes for their performens. Saplings were planted in the villages.



Children Day Celebration

14. Village Level Health Sensitizing Meeting:

Primary health of the children age between 0 – 5 is one of the most important tool to measure the nation's development. With this view, we had focused primary health of children age between 0 – 18, ANC, PNC, and Adolescents of our target villages. To achieve this goal we had conducted Village Level Health Sensitizing Meetings. During this reporting period we had organized meetings in Keelavalasai, Alaikathavalasai, Iyanarpuram, Pullanthai, Sengalaneerodai, Kannigapuri, Thavukadu, Methalodai, T.M.Vadi, Singarathoppu, Poopandiapuram, Ammapattinam and Kavakulamvillagees, in which Medical officers, Mobile Doctors, Staff nurse, VHN, AWW and SHN were the resource persons.



Village Level Health Sensitizing Meeting

Around 500 people including ANC, PNC, Adolescent girls, village health committee representatives, Palmyrah Sangam representatives and other public were took part in these meetings actively. The resource person had sensitized the village people regarding the importance of health particularly ANC, PNC and children age between 0 – 5, and explained about the health services provided in the Government Primary Health centres. They had also detailed about the government health schemes available in the PHC and how to get.

15. PHC level health Convergence meeting

To ensure the health of our target people, we had health committees in the villages. The committees have a register about ANC, PNC, Adolescents and children aged between 0 – 5. They had facilitated the VHN to get health service to their villagers. In this regard, we had organized PHC level health convergence meetings to create a rapport among the Medical Doctors, VHN, Health workers of PHC and health committees. The resource persons were explained about the services, infrastructures and Government schemes available in the PHCs. ANC, PNC, Adolescent girls and Village Health Committee representatives were being active in the meeting. During this reporting period 26 meetings were conducted in Uchipulli, Velanur, Pudumadam, Therpogi, Melakidaram, Earwadi, Vellapatti, Periyapattinam, Regunathapuram, Valinokkam, Sikkal, Thiruuthirakosamangai, Sayalkudi PHCs. 650 people had got knowledge about the service and schemes of Government PHCs.



PHC level Health Convergence Meeting

Government aid for ANC and PNC availed during this reporting period is:

Name of Scheme	Beneficiaries	Amount
Janani Sureksha	185	119000
Dr.Muthulaxmi Scheme	121	868200

16. Campaign on Bus facility

Number of school dropouts in high school and higher secondary school is increasing every year due to lack of bus facility to the remote villages. Particularly girl children have been school dropout and become child labor in 8th standard because of unavailability of city bus in their village itself. For example Kilaallikulam children have to walk for 16 km up and down every day for high school in Sayalkudi; Sengalaneerodi children have to walk for 12 km up and down every day for primary education onwards. So, transport facility to the school going children is being an important need. To address this need Palmyrah Sangam representatives and other public had filed number of petition and memorandum to District collector. The Kadaladi block village representatives had met with Mr.Murugan, MLA of Muthukulathur constituency and submitted petition. Transport need committee members from Sengalaneeraodai, Singarathoppu, Nathakulam, Kilaallikulam, Rayappapuram and Manickanagarhad submitted a memorandum to Mr.Dr.S.Sundarrajan, Minister for Youth and Sport affairs, Government of Tamilnadu on 07.12.2014. And also petitions were submitted to the General Manager, TNSTC, Karaikudi and Zonal Manager, TNSTC, Ramanathapuram.

17. New ration card

To ensure the food security we had take some efforts. Ration card is one of the important documents of a family which give authenticate address proof and to get rice and other grocery items for low price. We had identified the families that have no ration card and facilitate them to apply for it. And our team had followed the applications by file RTI on behalf of the applicants. This year we had availed 16 new ration cards to our target villagers.

18. New Sub centre

To ensure health to the remote villagers, activation of Government Primary Health Centres as well as Health Sub centres. We had activated 4 HSCs in the last year. For this year we are campaigning for the activation of Health Sub Centres of Pullanthai. The VHNs have not stay in these centres which resulted in unavailability of health service in emergency to the poor villagers.

19. 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 2014. The findings are inaccessibility of ICDS, school dropout from these families. Palmyra tapers migrated for 10-25 km from their villages. They are vulnerable and their children have lost their education.



Press Release of Study on Migration of Palmyra Workers

20. Comics Training:

To improve the creativity of our Staff, we had conducted Training on Comics Drawing at office on 16, 17 & 18 of September 2014. In this three days training, 10 staffs including Project Coordinator, Child Labor Coordinator, Documentation Officer and 6 Development workers were participated. Mrs.S.Rajamani, Accountant, had facilitated the training very effectively. She explained about how make a comic by using just a pencil only. She had given various comics style. It is significance to develop their creativity.



Comics Training to Child Labors

Two days training on Comic Drawing was conducted on 18.10.14 & 19.10.14 at Naripaioor to Child Labour Committee Members. This training had given a new input to the children to express their view as Comics Drawing on the issues of village. In this training 3+12=15 child labours were benefited.

Conclusion:

We have been taken continuous campaign to attain our goal during this reporting period. We had come across success as well as failure in this objective, but we do continue our effort for the marginalized, particularly for the Palmyrah workers and their children in Ramanathapuram district.