

The Centre for Culture and Development (CCD)

The aims and objectives.

Centre for culture and development was registered in the year of 1990 as charitable agency with an objective of promoting sustainable livelihood for the poor in the rural and urban areas.

Empowering the poor people within their capacities to lead a quality life, freeing them from poverty, eradicating illiteracy and unemployment are being the strategy of the centre. CCD has undertaken participatory development projects in the rural sector integrating cultural aspects of rural life and development in order to ensure people's total participation in development programs to make them self-reliant and self-sufficient.

The centre is committed to achieve this objective by ensuring the participation of the cultural resources and skills of people.

Women, children and socially excluded Dalits and the poor are given importance in our project concerns. CCD gives special importance to these Dalits in helping them to get their economic and social and cultural freedom. Since they are considered as untouchables and face lots of discrimination and violence in the name of caste conflicts. These specific groups of people have lost not only their cultural expressions but also their own identity due to socio-economic circumstances.

The centre is working to conserve and promote awareness on cultural resources of people in the process of development.

CCD is also involved in highlighting the need and importance of indigenous resources in the rural areas through dialogues on development. The other activities of the center are related to encouraging, supporting and promoting research on traditional expressive cultures of the people. The center attempts to build a bridge between tradition and modernity and to concentrate on educating the masses to take a balanced approach to development.

Our ongoing activities:

Arumbugal (Blossom) The children centres.

The centre is running four supplementary coaching centres for nearly 200 children in the villages to enhance their learning skills and give them training in extra curricular activities. It has improved their performances in the school.

The present condition of education in the selected villages for the poor children is not satisfactory as there are constant dropouts of children from the school. The performance of the school going children is also in a poor state of affairs as the failure rates are very high.

The reason for this problem lies in two fold. The parents who are toiling from dawn to dusk are considering their children as an addition to help them in wage earning. Though they wish their children to get education the poverty at homes are compelling them to bring them as additional wage earners.

The poor parents wait for the weak moments of the school going children to pull them in to take care of the household activities. On the other hand the government schools with over number of children in each class could not provide individual attention and quality education to these children. The poor and literate parents could not follow up the performance of their children either at school or at home.

The result is that many children drop out each year from the school and become child labourers.

Since CCD believes strongly the need of educating the community as to how to reclaim their basic rights that were denied to them. Through empowerment, education and self reliance, they can overcome the cycle of poverty and lack of awareness. Hence the need of formulating an integrated approach to the education in local specific situation to the children and their mothers is a need of the hour in the project area. These centres will give the opportunity to the poor children to enhance their learning skills at schools and bring down the drop outs and impart special skills needed for a holistic education through this centres.

The children from the following villages are benefiting out the IEC program.

1. Edayapatti -70 children. 2. Sorukulipatti -40 children 3. Thirukannai -30 children. Mookampatti-65 children. Dailt colony-20

The present situation of the beneficiaries

The main occupation is agriculture and its allied activities .people relies upon the water from the channel and getting it to their farming activities depend upon the rainfall. Poverty is more visible among the landless labourers and their struggle for survival during the non farming season is high.

The Dalits are facing a social discrimination in the villages by getting a separate place for their settlements. Though the law describes untouchable as crime the attitude of the people has not much changed towards Dalits. As majority of them are landless labourers they are working as daily wage earners with the landowners.

The children are malnourished and their settlements have poor hygiene conditions .because of this the children often get sick and unable to cope up with their studies. The historical separation of Dalits has resulted in low self esteem.

Many of the children do not have electricity at their homes and find it difficult to study at home or to complete their home work. Because of this they are often condemned as irresponsible and not cared by the teachers. There are many drops out children in the project area.

Kalai women self help groups

The women from the villages are formed in small groups to address different issues that affect their lives in the villages and seek the possibilities for increasing the income patterns of the households. Through micro finance they are encouraged to become entrepreneurs to earn more through setting up enterprises to come out of poverty. Organic farming education is given to them to promote house hold organic vegetable and herbal gardens to meet their food needs.

Kalai Organic Farmers association.

Organic farming can be defined as an approach to agriculture where the aim is to create integrated, humane, environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural production systems. Maximum reliance is placed on locally or farm-derived renewable resources and the management of self-regulating ecological and biological processes and interactions in order to provide acceptable levels of crop, livestock and human nutrition, protection from pests and diseases, and an appropriate return to the human and other resources employed. Reliance on external inputs, whether chemical or organic, is reduced as far as possible. Organic

agriculture is known as ecological agriculture, reflecting this reliance on ecosystem management rather than external inputs.

Kalai organic farmers association is farmed in the villages to create awareness among the marginal farmers and landless labours to come back to the organic methods of farming from chemical fed farming. The farmers are receiving training and given input resources to steer it as a movement to foster gradual shift from present mono crop patterns towards multi crop patterns to increase their income and also to promote sustainable development.

Dalits empowerment program. The Dalits who are marginalized and treated as untouchables are given the motivational training through their art forms to bring back their self esteem and human dignity to participate in the social life equally. Sanitation and hygiene education is imparted to them regularly. The children are given training

Health communication through Folk Arts

The role of folk medium in communicating the village people is explored by the centre with the collaboration of ST.Johns medical college Bangalore. The problem of hearing impairment and Eye care among the village children is addressed by the traditional folk theatre with music and dance. The simple medium of communication takes the message clearly to the women of the villages in learning more about the problem.

The Resource Centre

Kalai grammam is the collective space for Resource and Training for strengthening the developmental issues of pro -poor, pro- nature, and pro-women in accordance with the United Nations millennium developmental goals. It is located 16 kilometers from the town of Madurai in a village named Edaiyapaati. This center functions as a resource center with the main objective of dissemination of information to the needy and deprived and marginalized people of the society. The center undertakes eco- friendly projects to create a balance between traditional and contemporary, knowledge systems to improve the lively hoods of the villagers around this area. Need of water, health and capacity building, empowering women and children are the key issues dealt by the center.

The training areas include:

- Organic farming methods
- Self help groups for village women
- Small-scale income generation program
- Health and sanitation
- Water conservation technologies
- Micro financing
- Capacity building for lively hood improvement
- Folk arts Training
- Environmental education for the children
- Vocational training skills

The Budget Requirements for the Financial year -2007-2008

Item	Rupees	USDollars (\$)
The salary for the teachers in a Rumbugal Children Centres (800x5 x12 months)	48000	
The Salary for the Resource centre in charge (2500x12 months)	30000	
The salary for the women's self-help group coordinator (2500 X 12)	30000	
The salary for the organic Farmers association coordinator (2500 X 12)	30000	
The salary for the project coordinator (3000x12)	36000	
Communication expenses (Phone +Net +Mobile)	10000	
Travel expenses (Field Visits, programme visits for the Field Coordinators and project in charge and teachers)	30000	
Administrative expenses (Rent +electricity +Stationary)	25000	
Total amount in Indian Rupees	239000	
Amount Received from SDI	83000	(---)
The Balance amount Required	156000	\$3600

Contact the Centre for Culture and Development:

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