

# ANNUAL REPORT - 2007

## NAGAPATTINAM



Society of DMI,  
No.78 Cooks Road, Velipalayam,  
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## **INTRODUCTION:**

**“It’s better to light one candle  
Than to curse the darkness”.**

As a non–profit organization, DMI in Nagai is glad to share our holistic development of the community especially in the sectors of children and women growth and the development during this year – 2007. Our approach and intervention towards the holistic development of the community, especially the vulnerable community has taken a multi dimensional approach. Investing in women’s leadership to gain gender equity is an operating principle of our holistic development activities. As a social movement, it organizes and mobilizes women on trade lines, promoting social and financial independence of poor women in Nagai district through small enterprise development.

WLF and BLF leaders enable poor women to emerge as leaders in their own rights to influence public policy through collective action improving their social standing. We have motivated women, to enrich and empower through various training programmes, seminars and other activities. The women and children development are meritoriously marching forward, growing every stronger and ever vibrant. Lots of changes have come about in the basic structure of the unit like women wings, and the development of leadership qualities among women. Besides the promotion of SHG groups we have also formed PLFs and BLF. These federation activities have really boosted the morale of the women. They now start thinking of not only their individual development but also of their groups as well as their society. Their eyes are now open to the issues of the community/ village, like water and sanitation, roads, cleaner environment, health and hygiene, children’s education, school drop outs etc. With our intervention and constant trainings and orientations the women whose voices were once not heard in the society are now in a position to raise their voices against the violation of Human Rights. The platform is created to fight for women’s rights.

**THRUST:**

To promote sustainable source of income to all the Tsunami victims and safe guard women and children by motivating them in disaster preparedness as they are the vulnerable sectors of the community.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

1. To enable the Tsunami victims to regain normalcy by giving them counseling.
2. To instill and cultivate the habit of savings to meet out their future family and educational needs of their children.
3. To provide medical care in the temporary shelters and to the villages by mobile Health clinic.
4. To enable the Tsunami affected dalits to attain economic development.
5. To strengthen their capacity by providing skills training in their line of work.
6. To enable the Tsunami affected children to have holistic development in the future

**ACTIVITIES:****Women development programme**

1. Self Help Group formation and Panchayat Level Federation formation  
Ward Level Federation formation and Block Level Federation formation
2. Capacity building trainings
3. Skill Training
4. Training on Community Based Disaster Risk Management program
5. Livelihood Programme
6. Disbursement of Revolving Fund and Economic Activity loan
7. Production and Marketing
8. Mobile Health

**Child Development programme**

9. Home Based care
10. Tuition centre

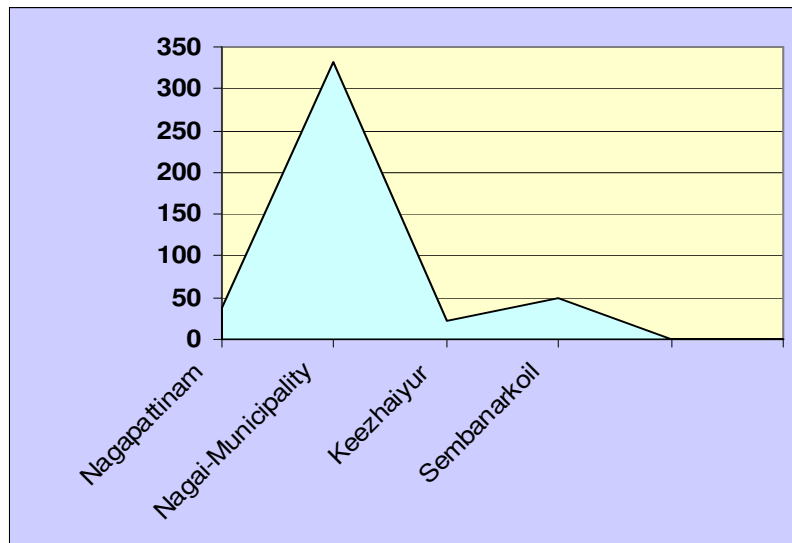
## WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

### SHG FORMATION:



Till today, formation of SHG is on the process. The unorganized women and men were organized with a view to fully making them empowered human persons in the society where they will be treated equally and given due rights. During this year we have formed 35 women SHGs 21 men SHGs. In total 56 groups were formed to empower the women and men to obtain their rights in the society.

Sl.No	Name of the block	Total No. of. SHGs
1.	Nagapattinam	38
2.	Nagai-Municipality	333
3.	Keezhaiyur	22
4.	Sembanarkoil	49
<b>Total</b>		<b>442</b>



## SAVINGS:

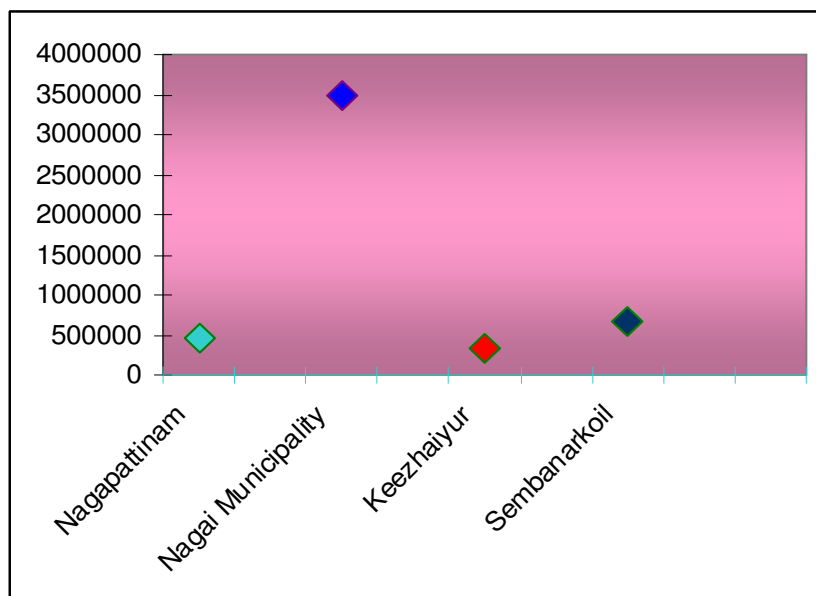
The savings are regularly done by the self help group women in the meetings to avoid confusion. The savings immediately deposited in the bank by the group members who are nominated in a chain basis. Through this every member of the SHG learn to deposit the money in the bank. The savings



of every month deposited first and if any one is in need to take internal loan then the money needed is withdrawn. A penalty fixed by the group is collected if the member does not pay the savings on time.

## DETAILS OF SAVINGS:

Sl.No	Name of the block	Total Savings
1.	Nagapattinam	Rs. 4,71,200
2.	Nagai-Municipality	Rs.34,97,070
3.	Keezhaiyur	Rs. 3,28,150
4.	Sembanarkoil	Rs. 6,59,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>Rs. 49,55,420</b>



### **INTERNAL LENDING OF THE SHGS:**

The members save Rs.40 to Rs.80 every month. They pooled financial resources to make small interest bearing loans to their members. This process creates an ethic that focuses on savings first. The setting of terms and conditions and accounting of the loan are done in the group by designated members. The needs of the members who want to avail internal loan are prioritized and according to that internal loans are distributed.

<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Name of the block</b>	<b>Total No. of. Loans given</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
1.	Nagapattinam	798	Rs. 5,33,776
2.	Nagai Municipality	3020	Rs.21,87,830
3.	Keezhaiyur	652	Rs. 8,00,200
4.	Sembanarkoil	1255	Rs.19,53,300
<b>Total</b>		<b>5725</b>	<b>Rs. 54,75,106</b>

### **EXTERNAL LOAN:**

By linking the SHGs with the local banks we were able to obtain a total sum of Rs. 1,17,40,000/- for our SHGs. They regularly repay the loan with interest. They make use of the money to start income generating occupations and increasing their and repaying the loan regularly. Some of the Self Help Groups received second and third loans after repaying the previous loans regularly.

<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Name of the block</b>	<b>Total No. of. Loans availed</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
1.	Nagapattinam	24	Rs.12,45,000
2.	Nagai Municipality	160	Rs.88,70,000
3.	Keezhaiyur	13	Rs. 5,70,000
4.	Sembanarkoil	23	Rs.10,55,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>220</b>	<b>Rs. 1,17,40,000</b>

## FEDERATIONS:



SHGs have also federated into larger organizations like Panchayat level Federations (PLF), Block level Federations (BLF) and District level Federations (DLF). Two representatives from each SHG come together and form federation. At the cluster and federation level, there are inter-group

borrowings, exchange of ideas, sharing of costs and discussion of common interests. There are typically various subcommittees that deal with a variety of issues including loan collections, accounting and social issues. We have formed 11 Panchayat level federations in Nagai municipality and two BLFs in Nagapattinam and Sembanarkoil up to now. In other target villages women are being motivated to form Federation to take up actions collectively. They also have regular meetings and savings.

### Panchayat Level Federations Savings:

Sl.No	Name of the block	No. of. PLFs	Total Amount
1.	Nagapattinam	-	-
2.	Nagai Municipality	11	Rs. 37,020
3.	Keezhaiyur	-	-
4.	Sembanarkoil	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>Rs. 37,020</b>

### Block Level Federations Savings:

Sl.No	Name of the block	No. of. BLFs	Total Amount
1.	Nagapattinam	1	Rs. 750
2.	Nagai Municipality	-	-
3.	Keezhaiyur	-	-
4.	Sembanarkoil	1	Rs. 875
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>Rs. 1625</b>

## **RESULTS ACHIEVED:**

- 242 Self help groups, 11 PLFs and 2 BLFs were formed in the target areas
- Self Help Groups, PLF and BLF meetings are conducted regularly
- Savings are done on a regular basis in the meetings itself
- The groups started giving internal loans from their savings to the members on the priority basis.
- The repayment is done monthly and they started tapping the government resources for their well being.
- They received loans from the banks to embark in income generation programs.
- Women are now more confident, assertive and aware of their rights.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF FEDERATIONS:**

### **Well-timed assistance to the fire victims:**

There was a fire accident and two of our SHG members' houses were gutted in to ashes. The members actively plunged into fire fighting operation and prevented the fire from further spreading. Immediately all the leaders and members were on the spot and consoled the fire victims. The leaders



gathered and discussed in the federation regarding this issue and collected Rs. 3,000/- from the SHG members and helped the fire victims to put up the burned down huts. They also represented the incident to our DMI office and so an immediate relief material like utensils and provisions were supplied to both the families by our office. When loan payment is delayed the federation leaders alerts the SHG members and immediately follow up with the group leaders and members. This effective communication system contributes to a good repayment record.

### **COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO AVAIL BASIC AMENITIES:**



Due to torrential rains, the roads in the 29<sup>th</sup> ward were severely damaged. Hence they faced lot of hardships without proper roads. The federation leaders and members of 29<sup>th</sup> ward discussed this issue and submitted a memorandum to the Municipality Chairman to repair the roads in their locality. Seeing the collective action taken up by the women of 29<sup>th</sup> ward, the Municipality repaired the roads in a week time. The members are happy about their work of achievements and decided to honor the chairman for his immediate response. They also submitted a petition to the Municipality through their ward councilor to provide safe potable drinking water which actually mingled with drainage water. The Municipality took appropriate actions and provides safe drinking water at this juncture.

### **SOCIAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED, ADDRESSED AND THE OUTCOME:**

Bhagavathi Amman SHG members of 28<sup>th</sup> ward in Nagai municipality have done a great help to a girl who was hit by an auto. After hitting the girl, the auto driver flew away from the scene. It was noticed by members and they noted down the auto number and went to auto stand and found out the person. They filed a case against him and got compensation for the girl. So this was a great help done by our federation to that girl.

The federation leaders, in fact many of them do not have any support, yet each one of them has shown tremendous qualities of leadership. They have identified their needs and made resolution and submitted to the concern officers. All that it requires for them is the opportunity to exhibit their qualities. The federation movement is of course a huge success in Nagai district.

- ✓ Ward federation board was installed which consist of all the emergency contact numbers. This helps the local people to call for fire service and other assistance when needed in their area.
- ✓ 28<sup>th</sup> ward federation members and youth of the area initiated to clean their street and surroundings and gave application to the municipality to keep the garbage bin in the street.
- ✓ Common toilet was built with the support of the government.
- ✓ The drinking water pipe line was chocked and damaged .The sewage water got mixed-up with the drinking water in the pipe line. The federation members took-up the issue and gave complaint to the Municipal commissioner and got it rectified.
- ✓ The 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> ward federation members together distributed butter milk during their area temple festival.
- ✓ The federation members supported a young widow, whose husband died of cancer. They helped her to learn tailoring and supported her to get individual loan from DMI for her economic sustainability.
- ✓ The same federations succeeded to get sufficient drinking water for each family. They identified the people who have motor connection fixed directly to the pipeline to pump water. This reduces the water pressure and so the other people did not get adequate drinking water. They collectively took up the matter with the ward councilor and commissioner in the municipality and as a result the municipal staffs came and removed all the motors and so the public get sufficient drinking water.
- ✓ 21 ward federation members helped one of the SHG member's husband for his treatment. He was admitted in one of the hospitals in Thanjavur and got financial support from different people for his medical expenses..
- ✓ 17<sup>th</sup> ward members submitted a memorandum to construct a small bridge to connect the backwaters to the sea. The commissioner sanctioned this proposal and the local ward councilor was administered to look after the construction work.

## **TRAINING ON WOMEN RIGHTS:**



Training on Women Rights was organized for the federation members at the DMI training center. We invited Mrs. Margaret Roselyn, the district Judge from Nagapattinam court and the advocates Mr. Sabarethinam, Mr. Kalidas and Mr. Pandian to give awareness training on women rights. They highlighted the women issues. Mrs. Margaret Roselyn, the district court judge explained to the women, the women's rights based approach on Psychological problem, Physical problem, Dowry, Sex exploitation, Husband harassment and gave them the solutions. This training program helped the participants to become aware of their rights and disseminate the same to their respective Self Help Group members.

## **TRAINING ON RIGHTS BASED APPROACH:**



Learned from our experience gained in our working area and to cope up with the need of the hour we have now entered into a new phase of Developmental work. No development work will be a complete holistic one, unless the human rights and the development go hand in hand. To carry on the programs successfully we need to have a team of field as well as back office staffs who are aware of the concept and rights.

We have organized a two days Workshop on Rights-Based Approach at our DMI Nagai campus. 45 members participated and carried the messages to the working areas.

**Inputs were given on the following topics:**

1. Concept of Rights-Based Approach
2. Types of Approach. (Welfare Approach and Development Approach)
3. Govt. Responsibilities.
4. Indian Constitutional Rights.
5. Human Rights Declarations
6. Consumer Protection Act and Consumer Code.
7. International Conventions.
8. Rights Based Commission in India
9. Identification of H.R violation

**Human Rights Day Celebrations:**



The sixtieth World Human Rights Day was celebrated in Nagai DMI house in a grand manner. We had various programs like dance, songs and short plays to commemorate the event. Mrs. Sooryakala, P.O. Mahalir Thittam, Nagapattinam presided over the function. Over 400 women representatives from various SHGs made their presence to get the benefit of listening and learning from the talks of the Chair person as well as the other eminent speakers. We had the Nagapattinam Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr. Gunsekar, and Advocate Mr. Kalidas, Regional Law Officer, Human Rights Monitoring, Nagapattinam to enlighten the local community women who are our SHG leaders and members.

With the jam packed crowd of over 400 women the maiden function of World Human Rights Day Celebrations at DMI, Nagai took its start with the prayer

song by the women leaders by 3.30 p.m. Sr.Lilly then welcomed the dignitaries and the mass. The Home Children then gave their contribution to the Human Right's Day to practice one's culture in the form of Baratham and welcomed one and all.

Mr. Anthony A. Xavier then gave a short note on the importance of the World Human Rights Day .The importance of humanism was then implanted in the heart of the participants, who can play a major role in bringing changes in the society. A team of women from a federation gave a meaningful short play depicting the role SHG can play in correcting the social evils in the form of Human Rights violations and maintaining harmony in the family and so in the society. After the human rights message by the women for the women, advocate Mr.Kalidas gave an oration on Human Rights. Being a human rights activist and also the human rights regional law officer he in his own style explained the public the various forms of human rights violations at home, in the street, in the village, in the government offices and also in some of the police stations. His thought provoking messages in simple language has carved a pitch in the minds of our SHG members. He also explained how the rights of an individual need to be honoured so that our rights are protected.

Nagai DMI having entered the era of RBA in community development activities, our women also started thinking in the line of human rights. Gained knowledge was translated in the form of rights based songs written by the women and the women echoed the song to convey the message of human rights violations in the Public Distribution System i.e. the Ration Shop.

A friend in need they are, but in some cases the protector turns to be the destroyer of human rights. Our Nagapattinam Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr.Gunsekarán gave a small



thought to ponder, how the community can prevent the violation and live in harmony.

It's not only the dignitaries who share their views; it's also the women who are really facing the situation of violation day in and day out. One of our SHG member came out with their understanding of the sections in the Human Rights convention and how a harmonious world of humanism can avoid the need to speak of the rights, as there will be no violation of rights if each one of us start respecting each other as an end and not as a means.



After all these different dimensional highlights of human rights comes the final word from the Chief Guest, none other than the Nagapattinam District Project Officer of Mahalir Thittam, Mrs. Sooryakala. She being the driving force behind the SHGs, who in turn drive the community towards a better

non-violent living, gave her advice to the women and left a message in the heart of the women, how they can change the world. If their power and energy is used for the betterment of the society then the world will not have any violation of Human Rights. To ease the loaded minds of the participants the Home children gave a dance and then the songs by the women also followed.

It is the time to express our word of appreciation and the vote of thanks not as mere customary ceremony but a heart felt words of gratitude. This was done by our Sr. Molly who had planned to make the day a reality. The personnel who gave mind boggling thoughts and the potential inputs were respectfully honoured by the gestures of Sr. Molly. With such a wonderful evening the Human Rights Day celebration at DMI House, Nagapattinam came to an end with a high-tea. All the participants nourished the day as a day to be remembered.

### **SHG AND Animators & Representatives TRAININGS:**

The sustainability of any programme will depend on the participation and involvement of the community members and the beneficiaries. As part of our empowerment programme we also with the help of the district administration have arranged regular animators, representatives and members training programs.



<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Name of the training</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of beneficiaries</b>
1.	Animators & Representatives training	03-01-07 to 28-01-07	150
2.	Animators & Representatives training	10-05-07 to 29-05-07	40
3.	Self Help Group training	27-11-07 to 30-11-07	165
4.	Self Help Group training	27-11-07 to 16-12-07	362
5.	Animators & Representatives training	26-12-07 to 31-12-07	50
<b>Total</b>			<b>767</b>

### **Training on Book keeping, Record maintenance and Documentation:**

The SHG Leaders and members energetically participated in the book keeping, Record maintenance and documentation training in this reporting period. The resource persons were invited from the neighboring NGOs and Mahalir Thittam of



state government. They clearly explained to the members the importance of book keeping and documentation. The participants were able to acquire the needed skills in book keeping, record maintenance and documentation. They were given different skills while documenting the books which are necessary to avail bank loans and maintain the transparency of the group. The members are aware of their savings and the repayment of loans. Through this initiative, malpractices and misuse of money will be reduced since all the records are documented properly. The self help groups follow the procedures what they learnt from the trainings while book keeping, record maintenance and documentation.

### **Leadership Trainings:**



To inculcate leadership qualities in the self help group women three trainings were arranged in this reporting period in which 397 women participated and enhanced their leadership skills. The resource persons who are qualified in this aspect were called to impart the training to our SHG women. The resource persons clearly explained to them the qualities of a good leader, types of leadership and how to develop leadership qualities. After the training program, we could notice the women taking up initiatives to conduct programs. We also see to that there is change of leadership every six months in the SHGs. Hence, everyone has the chance to develop their leadership qualities and lead their group in an effective way.

### **Training on savings and money management:**

The self help group members were given training on savings and money management every month in this reporting period. They were enlightened with the importance of regular savings for their bright future. The self help group members save Rs.40 to Rs.60 every month. They also deposit the savings of

every month the very next day after collections in the banks. This helped them to elude misuse of money for their personal purposes. In total 412 SHG members benefited from this training. They were also given good practices to be followed while distributing the internal loans. The needs of the members who wish to take up internal loans were prioritized and given loans. They have to repay the loan with minimum interest within the stipulated period.

**Impact:**

We see the change in the attitude of the people. Their self esteem is increased. They are no more in unknown; they follow the set rules in SHGs. They participate in planning, implementing, in maintaining and managing the programs. In many families we see men giving respect to their wives. We see the certain change in the attitudes of men towards women. They feel strong in groups and are capable of approaching government offices for their dues. They realize the importance of education and send their children regularly to schools. They are regular in savings and able to obtain loans from the Banks and started engaging in income generation programs and increasing their economic standard.

**TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY OUR STAFF:**

- Two of our staffs actively participated in the TOT training organized by Mahalir Thittam at Mailadudurai.
- Six coaching class Teachers and our Children's Home Warden attended the Psycho Care Training.
- Coaching staff attended CBDRM orientation programme.
- For the benefit of the NGO staffs, a seminar on Alternative Livelihood Opportunities was organized by Mahalir Thittam at Thiruvareer on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007 Sr. Prema and Ms.Parimala attended the programme along with 30 staffs from 15 NGOs. Orientation was given on Rabbit Farming and Piggery.

- One day workshop on HIV was organized by AVVAI an NGO for all the NGO staffs who are working in the field of woman development. Sr.Lilly attended the programme
- Care India had organized a one day seminar on CBDRM for the benefit all the NGOs working in Nagapattinam at Hotel Thamizham. Sr.Lilly attended the programme.
- A two days full time workshop on Woman Empowerment was conducted by Mahalir Thittam for the benefit of the NGO staffs. Sr.Reggi, Sr.Margeratte, Sr.Prema and Ms.Rani attended the workshop.
- Sr.Molly attended a two days training on Lobbying and Advocacy at Trichy.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> August Sr. Christy and Sr. Jose attended the sharing session on Children's Parliament organized by Help Age India. In the meeting five of our children got selected for the District Level Parliament (2 from Home and 3 from Village Study Centre).
- Sr.Iruthayam and Ms.Rani participated in the One Day Orientation Programme organized by Mahalir Thittam and the Bankers.
- Sr.Molly, Sr.Lilly and Sr.Reggi were part of the RBA team which had taken the three days training at St.Thomas' Mount, Chennai. The training was organized by DMI central office.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> of September Sr. Christy, Sr. Prema, Sr. Jose and Ms.Shoba attended the meeting in the Psycho Trust office, Nagapattinam. They also took the children for medical check-up.
- Sr.Christy and Sr.Shiny attended the Workshop on Government Schemes & Inclusive Education with Disabled Children organized by the District administration and Cheshire Home, Chennai.

## SKILL TRAINING:



Earlier the women did not have any skills except working in the fields. Moreover they are illiterates. The target population was totally ignorant of the socio economic exploitation. To improve the economic standard of target group and reduce poverty, the target women were given various trainings to embark in income generation programs to increase their annual family income. Skill training has become a suitable means of developing their skills, employment and earning capacity of the target group. Besides technical training, they are also given entrepreneurship, managerial and communication skills.

Sl.No	Name of the training	Duration	No. of beneficiaries	Resource person
1.	Fur toys	21 days	30	Sr.Kulandahai
2.	Catering	30 days	30	Ms.Sudha
3.	Simple chemical	7 days	30	Sr.Prema
4.	Soft toys	30 days	30	Sr.Christy
5.	Jute bag	45 days	30	Ms.Sumathi
6.	Catering	7 days	27	Ms.Fatima shakila
7.	Soft toys	15 days	25	Ms.Sumathi
8.	Embroidering	7 days	68	Ms.Shanthi
9.	Tailoring	3 months	120	Ms.Malathi& Sumathi
10.	Computer	2 to 12 months	68	Mr. Raja
11.	Tailoring	3 months	30	Ms.Sumathi
<b>Total</b>			<b>488</b>	

### **Training on petty business:**

Earlier the women did not have any skills except working in the fields. Moreover they are illiterates. The target population was totally ignorant of the socio economic exploitation. To improve the economic standard of target group and reduce poverty, the target women were given training in tailoring, rabbit farming, Piggery, Bricks making and Short modules like surf making, Semiya making and animal husbandry to embark in income generation programs to increase their annual family income. Skill training has become a suitable means of developing their skills, employment and earning capacity of the target group. Besides technical training, they are also given entrepreneurship, managerial and communication skills.

### **The Trades covered in the training Programme:**

1. Detergent Powder
2. Cleaning Powder
3. Liquid Blue
4. Computer Sambrani
5. Phenol

Some of the SHG women have been given seed money to take up income generation programs like Soda making, fire wood selling, Tiffin centre, sari selling , rice selling, telephone coin box, tea shop, sweet stalls etc. to increase their annual family income.

In total Rs.2,52,000/- has been released as seed money to help the self group women to embark in small petty trades. After receiving the seed money, we could notice the amount efforts put forth by the SHG women to increase their family income.

### **Facilitative Training:**

Facilitative trainings were conducted for the SHG women to learn skills to start Income Generation programs to increase their economic status in the society where they live in. Along with these trainings, marketing training was given to the beneficiaries to sell their commodities for a reasonable price. In total 977

SHG women were covered under this facilitative training and enhance their production and marketing skills. They earn Rs.2000/- to Rs.4000/- every month and able to educate children and have a decent standard of living. They also have a say in the decision making process in their families at this juncture.

### **Marketing Capacity Training:**

As part of our marketing strategy we have adopted grass-root level village market penetration method. 428 women from various SHGs were identified and training was given to them on the Consumer Behaviors and Product Selection.

We have women from Tharangampadi, Ivanallur, Palakad, and Cholavidyapuram from Nagai Municipality area. 428 members from the above said area benefited and the snow ball effect has started now. Within a couple of months we have over 300 women who are involved in grass root level marketing. This is also to say that 300 families are being benefited by the supplement income.

### **Follow up Refresher Training:**

To make the programme sustainable and the skill trainings imparted to them as a permanent investment, we do take a holistic approach towards the integral and sustainable development. We organized refresher training to the women who underwent skill trainings and taken up the same as an income generating program. Nearly 500 women were covered under this training. The best practices followed and the problems encountered were discussed. We also motivated them to share their experiences with one another. This refresher training was really helpful for the women to proceed better with their activities.

### **CBDRM (Community Based Disaster Risk Management)**

Over the past two decades, there has been an increase in disaster occurrences costing human and economic losses. This is due to the ever-increasing vulnerabilities of people to natural and man-made disasters. The

need is felt to reduce the disaster risk by improving capabilities of people and ensuring preparedness, mitigation planning process at various levels.

As we work with the community at the grass-root level especially in the sectors like women and children who are more prone to vulnerability in any disaster, the objective is to look at the entire cycle of disaster management in reducing risk and linking it to developmental planning process. Community participation and community ownership in disaster risk reduction is one of the key factors in reducing vulnerabilities of people and minimizing the loss. Community Based Disaster Risk Management approach promotes community involvement and strengthening of their capacities for vulnerability reduction through decentralized planning process.

The primary goal of CBDRM is to reduce vulnerability of the concerned community and strengthen its existing capacity to cope with disasters. The approach of preparing the CBDRM plans considers people's participation a necessary pre-requisite for disaster management. By involving the community in the preparedness phase, it not only increases the likelihood of coordinated-action by the communities to help in mitigating disasters but also brings the community together to address the issue collectively.

### **IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS:**

- Selecting the Community
- Rapport Building and Understanding the Community Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment
- Participatory Disaster Risk Management Planning
- Building and Training a Community Disaster Risk Management Organization.

## **AN ONGOING PROCESS:**

- Community-Managed Implementation
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of the implementation process we have identified the following five villages from our target villages.

1. Tharangampadi 2. Thethi 3. Ivanallur 4. Municipality 21<sup>st</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Ward 5. South Pogainallur

Rapport building and understanding the community is done through the involvement of the PRI this involvement of the PRI also brings Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment and Risk Management Planning and more of community managed implementation.

Steps taken in each village

1. Preliminary survey done.
2. Formed five sub-groups.
3. Allotted responsibilities to sub-groups.
4. First phase of training imparted.
5. Trained the people to document a study report on the components such as: Village history, Social mapping & Vulnerability Mapping.



The five sub-groups formed in each village

- Information & Warning Team
- Rescue & Evacuation (Shelter Team)

- Food, Water & Sanitation Team
- Medical & First Aid Team
- Coordinating Team

As part of the awareness programme we have already taken the following steps, viz.

🏠 Meeting with village key persons.

🏠 Distribution of IEC materials

And the rest of the programmes will be followed.

1. Rallies 2. Street plays 3. Competition in schools 4. Wall paintings with Dos and Don'ts for various hazards.

Moving along with the national policy of CBDRM, we are now entering into the phase of CBDP, Community Based Disaster Preparedness programme. To make the programme more sustainable we have made the participatory process as the pivot.

### **ACTION PLAN**

- Second phase of training for the village team, the training will be in Fire fighting First-Aid and Mock drill will be conducted in the villages.
- Preparation and erection of CBDRM maps and the contact list of CBDRM related personnel in each village
- Creating a common platform for knowledge sharing among District, Panchayat and village level CBDRM teams.

We have introduced disaster management to the people. People feel that this program prepares them to protect themselves at times of any disaster and be of help to other people who are in need during disaster. As Nagapattinam is a disaster prone area, the Community Based Disaster Risk Management- CBDRM, will build up the capacity to cope with any such future hazards. When the community is prepared for disaster, the extent of the community's vulnerability and impact of the disaster is very much minimized The Disaster reduction strategies drawing upon sustainable development concepts should

be proactive and continual. To be effective, they need to promote political commitment, a financial rationale, environmental sensibility and cultural awareness. Such a shift in mentality should be in particular, meet the mitigation requirements imposed by the slow-onset disasters that global environmental changes will bring about in CBDRP/ CBDRM implementation.

#### **TRAINING ON FIRST AID:**



To understand the vulnerabilities and increase the capacity of vulnerable groups and community we have conducted training on first aid at Thethi village in Nagai municipality. The resource person Mrs.Nirmala, the Principal of Karthikeyan Nursing Institute, Nagapattinam highlighted the

importance of first aid and various types of First Aid. The village CBDRM team members as well as the village public benefited from this training.

#### **SERVICES OF THE FIRE & RESCUE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT:**

As part of the CBDRM Training Programme, training with live demonstration on Fire fighting and other rescue operations were conducted for the benefit of our CBDRM members by the Our Nagapattinam District Fire and Rescue Operation Department Officials. 150 men and women from the Nagapattinam town benefited from this one day training programme. The Fire and Rescue Operation officials who are known as “PROSART” (Professional Search And



Rescue Team) imparted the training and prepared the village level CBDRM members who will be known as “COMSART”(Community Search And Rescue Team). As the first phase of the COMSART training the followings aspects were covered.

- Search operations
- Life saving measures in case of Fire
- Fire fighting
- Methods of lifting and shifting the victims to safer places.
- Pre hospitalization first aid services to the fire victims.
- Rescue operations in case of flood and drowning.
- Making use of the locally available materials like bed sheets, bamboo sticks etc for the rescue operations.

### **LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM:**

The Society DMI created a lot of livelihood opportunities to improve the economic status of women in Nagai the year 2007. we have witnessed historical landmarks in individuals as well as in group activities. In the case of Individual economic activity the members from the SHGs apply for seed money assistance to supplement their income. The individual cases are then scrutinized after making a personal case study of the need of that particular applicant Thus the beneficiary is identified and the seed money is disposed to them. We have assisted 235 women and they are involved in 50 different trades in our working areas.

Prior to our assistance they were depending only on the local money lenders for their financial support paying exorbitant rate of interest. Our seed money assistance has relived them of the interest burdens. The savings they make on account of this is being



spent for the betterment of their children's education. There is a wide spread awareness of the importance of education.

<b>SEED MONEY ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS</b>				
<b>Beneficiaries and the list of Activities – 2007</b>				
<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Name of the activity</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Total amount</b>
1	Agri.seed/ seedlinks	5,000	4	20,000
2	Bamboo sales	5,000	2	10,000
3	Bricklen	5,000	12	60,000
4	Candle making	5,000	1	5,000
5	Canteen	5,000	2	10,000
6	Chocolates	5,000	1	5,000
7	Color fish	5,000	1	5,000
8	Cow	5,000	8	40,000
9	Detergent powder	10,000	1	10,000
10	Fancy goods	5,000	5	25,000
11	Fire wood	5,000	3	15,000
12	Fish Vending	5,000	5	25,000
13	Flower shop	5,000	5	25,000
14	Grinder	5,000	30	150,000
15	Ice Vending	5,000	1	5,000
16	Idly petty-shop	5,000	25	1,25,000
17	Imitation Jewels	5,000	1	5,000
18	Kola Powder	5,000	1	5,000
19	Lemon shop	5,000	1	5,000
20	Masonry equipments	5,000	2	10,000
21	Milk pocket	5,000	2	10,000
22	Mixi	5,000	1	5,000
23	Oyster garland	5,000	1	5,000
24	Onion vending	5,000	2	10,000
25	Paddy merchant	5,000	1	5,000
26	Petty shop	5,000	22	1,10,000
27	Phenol	5,000	1	5,000
28	Pickle Making	5,000	1	5,000
29	Plastic Pot	5,000	2	10,000
30	Polyethylene	5,000	1	5,000
31	Tailoring Accessories	5,000	1	5,000
32	Rice Merchant	5,000	1	5,000
33	Rice sales	5,000	1	5,000
34	Saloon	5,000	1	5,000
35	Sampirani	5,000	1	5,000

36	Sand, bricks, rubbles	5,000	1	5,000
37	Sari sales	5,000	19	95,000
38	Semiya Production	10,000	1	10,000
39	Sewing machine	5,000	23	1,15,000
40	Snacks	5,000	4	20,000
41	Soda-making	5,000	1	5,000
42	Sofa cushions, mattress	5,000	1	5,000
43	Sweet stalls	5,000	5	25,000
44	Telephone Coin box	5,000	2	10,000
45	Tea-Agency	5,000	1	5,000
46	Tea-shop	5,000	3	15,000
47	Vadai Shop	5,000	3	15,000
48	VCD cassette shop	5,000	1	5,000
49	Vegetable shop	5,000	16	80,000
50	Vessels	5,000	2	10,000
51	Sheep	5,000	1	5,000
52	Tails machine	5,000	1	5,000
			235	11,85,000





Besides Individual Economic Activity we too have Group Economic Activities. Though we have started the group activities in the previous year, it was only on a trail basis. The production centre established in South Poigainallur where 4 SHGs are involved in the manufacturing of Semiya, Detergent Powder, Computer Sampirani, Masala Powder, Health Powder Mix and simple chemicals. Though these groups were not of DMI formed SHGs, we do assist them in marketing the product as they were handed over to us by D.R.D.A. Nagapattinam. From the lessons we have learnt from the trade we have established a fulltime production unit for Semiya and Detergent powder. At present we have 3 SHGs who are involved in the production of these products.

We have a market team which takes these products into village level marketing and also to the retail shop in our working areas. We have purchased a transport vehicle to cover the market and have a network of over 200 women involved in direct marketing now.

#### **PRODUCTION & MARKETING:**

We are also developing a Community Participatory Marketing System. Our marketing strategy has the following components:

1. Market Survey
2. Product Training to SHG women
3. Introducing products through our own market team
4. Confidence building programme for women
5. Marketing in SHG and BLF meetings
6. Marketing by Individual women
7. Women Marketing Team
8. Village level Marketing Network

This economic development activity of Nagapattinam has taken a legal stand and has made the Dalit women, government approved entrepreneurs. We have got VAT and CST Numbers for our Production and Marketing unit under the title of DMI Mahalir Ulagam. Of late we even got our unit registered under

Tamil Nadu Small Scale Industries. This legal empowerment boosts the Dalit women who were once not recognized by their own community are now being respected in the society. Production and marketing has reached the milestone in the livelihood pathway of DMI. Production unit machinery erection completed and the unit was officially blessed and Inaugurated by our parish priest of Nagai on 16th of June 2007.

To live up to the time we need to have our transportation to market the products manufactured under our umbrella. To meet up we have purchased a new TATA Ace transport vehicle on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at Trichy and handed over for container body construction. The new production centre at DMI House Nagapattinam went on steam and the first production came out of the production line in the Semiya Unit and Washing Powder on the 22nd June 2007.



### **MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC:**

The medical team consisting of Dr.Bashurideen, our staff nurse along with two sisters conducts the medical camp regularly in the villages. Based on the need and request from the community we fix the place for the Medical camp. The village Panchayat members and the Men as well as the Women SHGs play a major participatory role in organising the medical camps. We have been conducting a medical camp twice in a month in several places, in three blocks, namely Nagapattinam, Sembanarkoil and Keezhaiyur.



<b>Medical Camps – January to November. 2007</b>						
<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Block</b>	<b>Habitation / Ward</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>			
			<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Nagai.Municipality	Ward No.21	100	36	10	<b>146</b>
2	Nagai. Municipality	Ward No.28	30	77	60	<b>167</b>
3	Nagai, Municipality	Ward No.17	60	120	40	<b>220</b>
4	Sembanarkoil	Erukattanchery	82	110	58	<b>250</b>
5	Nagai. Municipality	Children's Home	0	0	80	<b>80</b>
6	Nagai. Municipality	Ward No 29	95	130	75	<b>300</b>
7	Nagai Municipality	Ward No. 30	25	110	40	<b>175</b>
8	Sembanarkoil	Eduthukatti	100	176	74	<b>350</b>
9	Keezhaiyur	Solavithyapuram	90	120	50	<b>260</b>
10	Sembanarkoil	Thillaiyadi	100	100	50	<b>250</b>
11	Nagapattinam	Ivanallur	35	65	120	<b>220</b>
12	Keezhaiyur	Karunkanni	40	143	32	<b>215</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>757</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>2633</b>

The beneficiaries were very happy about our service of health camp and benefited from this camp. There are even referral cases, which are forwarded to the District Head Quarters Hospital.

### **WARD LEVEL COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

Health & Hygiene Awareness Programme is conducted at ward level as well as village level for the SHG women, Kishori Group, youth groups, adolescent girls and schools and Village study centre children regularly. Our Staff nurse Ms.Shoba orients these groups periodically. This programme is to create awareness among women, youth and the children and to empower them to make health and hygiene a reality in their own area. Though most of the SHG members are illiterates and are not access to social power, they have an urge for learning and to follow the advices given to them. The impact of this programme is clearly indicated in the incident given below.

Two of our SHGs in ward 21 of Nagapattinam Municipality took up the job of cleaning the street. Seeing them, others also joined. Others took this type of Social Responsibility Awareness Programme as a role model too.

### **AWARENESS ON HIV/ AIDS:**

Creation of awareness paves road to development. In order to make the holistic development a reality we have now started focusing on the awareness of various social issues. The alarming issue in the present scenario is nothing less than HIV and AIDS. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, we observed world HIV/ AIDS day in Nagapattinam. To take the message across the cross section of the common public we from DMI, Nagai had organized a rally to create awareness among the Nagapattinam public and the culmination was the public meeting at our campus.

More than 800 women and school children gathered at Avery Tidal (near new bus stand). Mr.Gunsekaran, D.S.P. Nagapattinam started the DMI's World AIDS day rally. The rally went around the main roads of Nagapattinam and assembled at our office premises around 5.00P.M.



Dr.Kauselya, from the village Primary Health Centre was the chief guest. She in her address to the women explained about HIV and the steps to be taken to prevent. Here what is required is self control and awareness. Sr.Molly expressed her gratitude to the chief guest for her inspiring thought provoking advice to the women, The D.S.P. who started rally and the public who in spite of the down pour came in big mass also were thanked for making the day a success. The message was an eye opener to the women of our SHGs. The beneficiaries are not only the 800 women who had participated but also the hundreds of people along the roads and streets the rally passed through.

**NET WORK ACTIVITIES:**

Sl.No	Name of the Block	Type of net work	With whom	Out come	Beneficiaries
1	Nagai	Agriculture tools	CWM	Crowbar, Spade wheeler	15
2	Nagai & Sembanarkoil	Sponsor	CWM	Note books and Uniforms	118
3	Municipality	Individual activity	CWM	Got cycle	4
4	Nagai	Housing programme	CWM	Shelter	3
5	Nagai	Children's Rights and parliament	NCRC	Training 2 days	80
6	DMI children's	Sponsored	U.S.A	Bags and pens	80

	home				
7	Nagai	NGOs meeting	NCRC	Systematic plan	35
8	Nagai	Cultural programme	Avvai NGO	Good go-operation	250

**FUTURE PLAN:**

- Formation of new Self Help Groups
- Strengthening the existing SHGs
- Regular SHG, PLF and BLF meetings
- Formation DLF
- Income generation training to the women
- Tapping the government loans for SHG women
- Regular mock drills in the CBDRM villages
- Strengthening the task force teams
- Regular trainings to the staff
- Create more awareness on personal and social hygiene
- Regular health camps

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Child development programme is focused on four components

- ❖ Care home for the child
- ❖ Home-based care
- ❖ Study centers
- ❖ Extra-curricular activities

Child development programme is in operation in villages where children involvement in everything that promotes their development is given important

### **Care home for the Tsunami affected children:**

There are 80 children in the home. We provide the basic needs such as food, clothing and home to study. The age group of our children ranges from 5 to 15 years. Apart from care home service the deserve students from costal village were selected and supported to continue their education through scholarship and special tuition. We provided them study materials like notebooks, books, pen, pencils and exam fees.



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### **HEALTH PROGRAMME:**

Health programme was geared with the help of ambulance and qualified doctors. Community health issues were given importance as it is of main concern.

- \* We are giving the very good medical care for the children and SHG people.
- \* When a child falls ill our in-house nurse gives the first aid and is taken to the hospital for further medical care. We teach the children to be clean in order to protect them from the sickness. Nurse Shoba takes classes for the children about the cleanliness and hygiene.



[

### **Sanitation program and Health activities:**

The topics covered are:

- Hygienic environment,
- Cleaner House and cleaner surroundings
- Water and sanitation
- The hazards of unclean water
- Personal hygienic care (hair, nails skin etc.)

<b>Health and Hygiene Programme for Children</b>		
<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Name of the place</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
1	Thethi School	84
2	Thethi Tuition Centre	42
3	Nambiar Nagar	70
4	Kadampadi	22
5.	Nallian Thottam	35
6	Thethi Tuition Centre	42
7	Erukkatancherry	28
8	Nambiar Nagar	79
9	Kadampadi	20
10	Nallian Thottam	47
11	Thethi Tuition Centre	42
12	Erukkatancherry	28
13	Nambiar Nagar	79
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>618</b>

**Health-Related Trainings:**



The children are well attended if and when they fall in sick. Our staff nurse who lives in the campus takes care of the children during emergency. After the first aid the children are immediately taken for further treatment to the District Head Quarters Hospital, which is closer to our

Home. Once a week she also goes to the village Study Centre .She teaches them Health & Hygiene and also monitors their health. From this month we have started Growth Chart Monitoring (weight & height) for our Home Children.

### **TUITION CENTRES:**

To improve the academic performance of the children 9 coaching class centers were started. 618 poor children are helped through coaching class to have access to quality education. It has created an interest in the children the value and importance of the education for their better future. They have gained self



confidence, academic excellence and value based education. They are continuously helped to discover and develop their talents through various extra curricular activities.

<b>Nagapattinam District</b>		
<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Village Study Centre</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
1	Thethi Tuition Centre	42
2	Nambiar Nagar	70
3	Kadampadi	22
4	Nallian Thottam	35
5	Erukkatancherry	28
6	Tharangampadi	79
7	Cooks road	42
8	17 ward	28
9	Ivanallur	79
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>618</b>

## **EDUCATIONAL TOURS AND PICNICS:**



The students were taken to various historical places and picnic spots to learn and relax themselves. Weekly camps were utilized in a proper way as the students were also liked and participated actively. Children were encourage and motivated to participate in the common functions through

cultural programme, once a month. As a result of it, the children were very happy in bringing out exhibiting their hidden talents.

## **Extra Curricular Activities:**

### **Spoken English Class**

As the English language skill is an important tool which qualifies a person to express one's talents in an interview and also going for higher studies. Hence, spoken English class was arranged for one full month in May in Nagai and Tharangampadi for the students of 9th to 12th standard. Bro. William from MMI was the master of the spoken English class.

<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>No. of Students benefited</b>
1.	Nagai	82
2.	Tharangampadi	51

The extra curricular activities were beneficial to the students because it helped them imbibe good values and valuable information and also infused the students to cultivate good manners through moral education, moral stories, Computer course, drawing that depict positive thinking and positive aspects of life, music programme and dance classes.



Sl.No	Activity	Resource Person	Remarks	Beneficiaries
1	Health education in school	Ms. Shoba	Students were motivated and encouraged to learn the basic knowledge on health and hygiene	212
2	Moral Education	Sr. Lilly	It has taught them to develop basic qualities and values	80
3	Moral stories	Sr. Regi	Children were motivated by moral stories in order to be ideal in their day to day life and activities.	80
4	Drawing Practice	Sr. Prema	Children showed keen interest to learn it and develop their life in a	80

			better manner	
5	Vocational Music course	Bro. Paul Raj	It brings concentration power besides learning music. Music soothes their sorrow.	125
6	Dance	Mrs. Jency	This is an attractive event in which everybody develops a keen interest to learn.	35
7.	Computer Education	Sr.Philips	The children learnt the basics of computer	120
			<b>Total</b>	<b>732</b>

### **CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS:**

The children's day celebrations gleefully celebrated in our children's home and the tuition centers in Nagapattinam. The children were given a chance to exhibit their talents. Various competitions are conducted and prizes are given to the winners.

Nalliyanthottam	-	110
Thethi	-	90
Railway road	-	100
Nambiyar Nagar	-	120
Tharangampadi	-	300
DMI Home	-	350



### **CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT:**

The main objectives of formation children's parliament are;

- To develop leadership qualities at the tender age

- To improve their civic sense and skills
- To create awareness on various issues in their neighborhood
- To inculcate saving habits



On 5<sup>th</sup> of this month September we have organized the children's parliament meeting in the children's home office sr. Christy, Sr. Jose and warden came for the meeting. We have elected the new parliament leaders. Miss. Kavitha was selected as chief minister, Miss. Diana the secretary the five cabinet ministers.

- |                       |   |                     |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Miss. Amala        | - | Education Minister  |
| 2. Miss. Vinisha      | - | The health Minister |
| 3. Miss. Amali        | - | Rules Minister      |
| 4. Miss. Jayphine     | - | The food minister   |
| 5. Master. Pragathish | - | The sports minister |

The children parliament is running very actively and the ministers of the parliament are doing their works very well. From our children's parliament, Miss. Kavitha and Master Pragatheeswaran were selected for the block level children's parliament. Now and then we are also giving the motivation for parliament leaders to work actively.

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **“Decent work for a decent living”**

Our women and child development activities have begun to march towards the holistic community development. Our progress is visible in the way our SHGs play their role as contributors to social change in stages, the development of women have changed from “I” concept to “We” concept. The next step was their involvement in the medical checkup and health awareness programme, more involvement in right based approach and in CBDRM programme. While addressing the economic and social security needs of the women, the programme has maintained its social grass root characters despite its phenomenal growth. Among women several steps have been taken by both the SHG and federation to overcome various environment and development problems. The women have emerged from an individual to a Group (SHG), from a group to the community and from the community to the society. This in turn widens the horizon of the women’s outlook. On account of this mental growth and stability they started viewing the society’s social, economical, environmental and health and hygiene issues as their own community’s issue, as their own group’s issue and in turn their own individual’s issue. Thus owning of the issues results in bringing a positive change / out come for the good of the community. When an individual starts realizing their own role and responsibility in the society then the change in society becomes a reality and the holistic development become possible.

**“The illiterate of the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

**Will not be those who can read and write,**

**But those who can not**

**Learn, unlearn and relearn.**