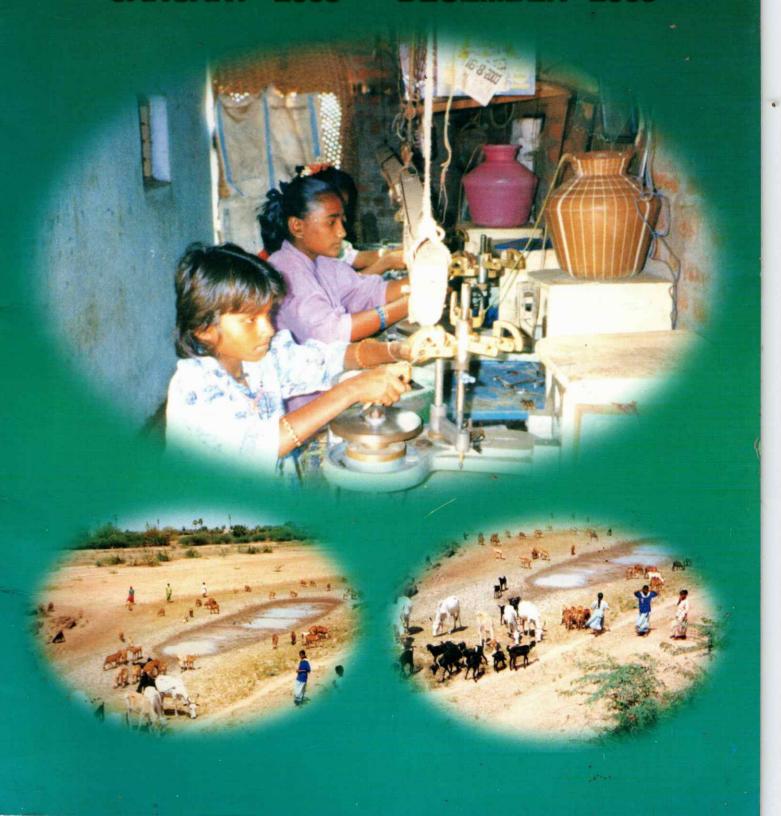
# GRAMA SEVA SANGAM

# ANNUAL REPORT - 2003

JANUARY 2003 - DECEMBER 2003



# GRAMA SEVA SANGAM KILIKKUDI

Annual Report - 2003

#### Project

# EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION OF WORKING CHILDREN IN THE INTERIOR VILLAGE OF PUDUKKOTTAI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU

Submitted to
PESTALOZZI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION (PCF)
SWITZERLAND

SI. No.		Topics
140.		Introduction
		Capacity building for the staff to improve productivity and
1		sustainability of the organization
	1.3	Staff Training
2		Child Development activities
	2.1.1	Non-Formal Education centre
	2.1.2	Animator Training
	2.1.3	Supplementary Education Centres
	2.1.4	Children Excursion
	2.1.5	Enrollment Campaign
	2.1.6	S.S.L.C., H.S.C., Crash course
	2.1.7	Follow-up of Re-enrolled children
	2.1.8	Parents Meeting
	2.1.9	Sports competition and cultural meet
	2.1.10	Street Play
	2.1.11	Puppet show on child rights awareness
	2.1.12	Video Programme
	2.1.13	Village Education Committee
		Promotion of Health and Hygiene activities
	2.2.1	Siddha Health Camps
	2.2.2	Eye Camps
	2.2.3	Mass Health Camps
2.3		Youth and Adolesent Programmes
	2.3.1	Workshop with youth club members
	2.3.2	(i) Formation of youth clubs
		(ii) Youth Federation
	2.3.1	Workshop with youth club members
	2.3.3	Training by GSS
	2.3.4	Referral Training
	2.3.5	Follow-up and Job placement
2.4		Women Development
	2.4.1	Women Self Help Group
	2.4.2	Women's Day Celebration
	2.4.3	IGP Training
2.5		Farmers Forum
	2.5.1	Formation of Farmers Forum
	2.5.2	Monthly Farmers Group Meeting
	2.5.3	Exposure visit to other organic farms
2.6		Networking and Lobbying
4		Promotion of organisational sustainability
		Monitoring System
		A 12

Achievements Personnel

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Role of education in development is well recognized by the world over. Education always has to be progressive. Progress and development mean different things for different people. For GSS, the most important aspect and root to progress is education of all children. That is why we focus on release and rehabilitation of working children in the interior villages of Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu. GSS entered in to the partnership with Pestalozzi Children's Foundation in 2000 for implementing the project entitled "Rehabilitation of Vulnerable Children, Youth and Women in Annavasal and Viralimalai Blocks of Pudukkottai District, Tamil Nadu". This report gives the details of various activities that GSS has undertaken during the period from January to December-2003.

Every year GSS has been preparing and submitting the action plan and the budget for approval by the Foundation. Based on the 2003 Project Planning Matrix (PPM), activities were implemented in 30 villages.

#### 1.3 Staff training

The organization has been giving great importance for capacity building of its staff members from the time of its inception. It has become more systematic ever since the made partnership with Pestalozzi Foundation. A series of training programmes were organized over the past three years to improve productivity of the staff.

#### 1.3.1 Training on Leadership and Project Management

Staff training was held at State Agriculture Extension Management Institute, Kudumiyanmalai organized on February, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2003. Two experts Mr. P.Gopalakrishnan, HRD Consultant, and Mr. Sonaimuthu, NGO Consultant, Social Awareness And Development of Women Natham facilitated the two days training programme. Basic principles of project management such as (i) Planning (ii) Budgeting (iii) Time management (iv) Communication and interpersonal skills were the major topics covered in the training programme. They also dealt with subjects like Ledger and Record Maintenance, Accounts writing, Computer application in Accounts Maintenance, Documentation and reporting etc. All staff members participated in this training programme and gained more knowledge on the above subjects, and improved their personality, communication and interpersonal skills and developed right approaches in development work.

#### 1.3.2 Training on Personality Development and Approaches for Development:

This training programme was held at GSS Training centre on March- 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> – 2003. All staff members and senior animators participated. Mr. S. Gopalakrishnan, a HRD consultant from Viralimalai facilitated the training. Inter-personal communication verbal and non-verbal.

Various development programmes and approaches, decision-making process were the important topics covered in this training.

#### 1.3.3. Computer Literacy Training programme:

Six months computer training was organized for all staff members from July-Dec-2003. The instructor came to the office and taught softwares like M.S. Office, Page maker, coral draw and photoshop. All staff members have benefited from the training; all are able to do basic work on the computer and few members have become competent. This training was very useful and relevant to our day-today reporting of documentation work.

#### 1.3.4 Exposure visit to Madurai

A two days exposure visit was organized to Madurai for all staffs members. This was on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August – 2003. The staff team visited M.S.Chellamuthu Trust, Thirumohur, Karuppayurani and Thirupparankundram and observed the activities of rural women i.e., SHGs; Micro enterprises such as canteen, cycle-shop, petti Shop, Milk booth, General stores, doll making units, pickle making. Through the interaction with SHG and federation members, the Staff team learned more about management techniques, problem solving skills, Capacity building of rural women, effective ways to approach government department etc.

#### 2. CHILD DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITES

In order to achieve the objective of "Promoting education of all working children below 14 years and complete elimination of child labour", different activities were undertaken by the project.

#### 2.1.1 Non-formal Education centres:

We were able to close 10 old NFE centers after sending the children to regular schools. Out of the 450 working children in the NFE centers in 2002, 200 were send back to school after completing the three levels of NFE syllabus named 'Koodi Karpom'. Based on their eligibility, they were enrolled in 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> standards in normal schools.



NFE Students are learning lessons through Joy of Learning method

Ten new NFE centers are opened in the newly adopted villages. They are; (i) Ochapatti (2) Philippatti (3) Panneerpatti (4) Poomaram (5) Chithirampatti (6) Karadaikampatti (7) Sangampatti (8) Saranakkudi (9) R.Athupatti (10) Erudhupatti. These villages have more number of drop-outs and working children. A total number of 212 children have joined in these 10 NFE centers. Basic infrastructure, black boards, NFE text books, notebooks, charts and other teaching aids are provided to all new centres. The following table gives details of old and new NFE centers.

#### GRAMA SEVA SANGAM, KILIKUDI

Number of boys and girls attending Non Formal Education Centres

Sl.no.	Cluster - I	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Perichipatti	7	13	20
2.	Vellayagoundanpatti	6	16	22
3.	Chitirampatti	6	19	25
4.	Uruvampatti	5	19	24
5.	Ochapatti	5	15	20
6.	Eruthupatti	10	27	37
	Cluster – II			
7.	Kurumbapatti	4	11	15
8.	Achanayakanpatti	1	9	10
9.	R. Kulavaipatti	5	20	25
10.	R. Athupatti	5	19	24
11.	Philipatti	13	21	34
12.	Panneerp atti	10	15	25
13	Poomaram	11	15	26
	Cluster – III		habata I a	
14.	Thennambadi	13	7	20
15.	Vanathirayanpatti	9	11	20
16.	M.Kulavaipatti	11	26	37
17.	Saranakudi	. 6	29	35
18.	Sangampatti	5	20	25
19.	Kumaradinatham	12	13	25
	Cluster - IV			
20	Karadaikanpatti	9	14	23
21	Viruthapatti	5	13	18
	Total	158	352	510

#### 2.1.2 Animators Training:

The field level animators (teachers) are having the major responsibility of maintaining educational standards both in the NFE and SE centers. They are educated up to 10<sup>th</sup> class and above, but needs lot of inputs to teach the children coming to these centers. Having realized that the teacher's training is very important, GSS made provision for training of teachers in academic and personality development.

(i). Academic Training: Three days residential training was held at STAMIN Training centre, Kudumiyanmalai, from 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Joy of Learning (Play way method of teaching) and multigrade teaching system were taught. Authors of 'Koodi Karpome' (NFE Text-books published by GSS), and resource people from District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) and District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) facilitated the training programme. How to teach school subjects - Tamil, English, Mathematics and Science, Social Science and Ecology- through play way methods were taught with examples.

After completion of the Academic Training all animators have learned the art of preparing teaching aids, pictures, models, miniatures and other things with locally available and low cost materials like chalk, wood, plastic, paper cuttings, coconut shell, match boxes and vegetable pieces. All of them have improved their teaching skills and learned how to manage different classes at one roof by giving different assignments to children of different classes. Now they manage the centers better.

#### (ii) Leadership, Organising Skills & Record Maintenance

This training programme was conducted at STAMIN Training centre, Kudumiyanmalai, on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> April - 2003. The objective of the training was to develop leadership quality, personality and organizing skills of the animators. Through role play and various exercises, they were taught how to arrange meetings of youth clubs, VECs, SHGs and parents and also health camps. Skills to approach local leaders and youth and how to mobilize their support for community development programmes were also important topics of discussion during this training.



Animators in the Training Session

After the training programme, leadership qualities of all animators are more explicit; they are able to organize programmes with much ease and gather full support from local people and CBOs (Community Based Organisations).

#### (iii) Exposure visit to National Child Labour Project Society

GSS has organized one day exposure visit for all animators to improve their teaching ability. They were taken to Avanathankottai National Child Labour Project Society School. All teaching staff have learned new teaching methods, play materials, making teaching aids etc., After the exposure visit, they are incorporating the newly learned techniques in our centers.

#### 2.1.3 Supplementary Education centers

The aim of Supplementary Education Centres is to support children having difficulty to cope up with regular school teaching. There are 24 SE centers in 24 villages, giving support to 812 students from regular schools. The enrolled children from the NFE centers need this type of support for some time to get adjusted to the new environment and curriculum. Multi-grade teaching system adopted in each SE center.



Students studying in the SE Centre

#### Number of boys and girls attending Supplemetary education Centres

Sl.no.	Cluster – I	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Meenaveli	18	19	37
2.	Perichipatti	21	19	40
3.	Vellayagoundanpatti	20	9	29
4.	Chitirampatti	12	13	25
5.	Uruvampatti	7	18	25
6.	Panampatti	19	16	35
7.	Vellalapatti	14	14	28
	Cluster – II			
8.	Thirunallur	14	13	27
9.	Kurumbapatti	16	19	35
10.	Achanayakanpatti	13	12	25
11.	R. Kulavaipatti	7	25	32
12.	R. Athupatti	21	4	25
	Cluster – III			
13.	Thennambadi	18	16	34
14.	Bhagavanpatti	24	21	45
15	Vanathirayanpatti	20	10	30
16	M.Kulavaipatti	34	8	42
17	Sangampatti	26	24	50
18	Kumaravadinatham	47	18	65
	Cluster - IV			
19	Karadaikanpatti	11	15	26
20	Alangampatti	15	16	31
21	Poosarinayakanpatti	20	15	35
22	Jeyamangalam	28	18	46
23	Kallukattupatti	9	6	15
24	Viruthapatti	17	13	30
	Total	451	361	812

Coaching in the SE center has helped 27 slow learners in the 10<sup>th</sup> class to pass the Government Public examination (S.S.L.C) conducted by the Board of Examinations, Government of Tamil Nadu in April-2003. 56 IX<sup>th</sup> Standard students were promoted to X<sup>th</sup> Standard. The SE centers are helping the illiterate parents. Considerable number of girl students are also benefited by the SE Centres and continuing their further studies.

#### 2.1.4 Children's Excursion:

GSS has organized Two Days Children's Excursion to Erkadu. Okenakal, Krishnagiri falls and Mettur Dam on 05.08.2003 and 06.08.2003. Around 200 NFE students (Only New Centres covered), animators and staff team have visited the above said places. Natural sceneries, water falls, jumping fishes, swimming dances were some of the beautiful and exciting scenes observed. The children enjoyed fishing and swimming in the river and there were photographed. A tourist guide who accompanied the group gave



Enrollment Campaign

People in the project villages got awareness on various social issues. The enrollment campaign is highly appreciated by the local people and CBOs (Community Based Organisations - VECs, SHGs, YCs and Parents Groups, Farmers Groups).

## 2.1.6 S.S.L.C., H.S.C., crash courses for helping children failed/ or having difficulty in appearing

Children who participated in the coaching were all students belonging to families below poverty line. The failed students dream of completing the course has come true through the coaching which was arranged in Viralimalai.

GSS has planned to give coaching for 3 months. The coaching center was opened at Viralimalai with separate facilities for boys and girls. Above 36 students from 10<sup>th</sup> standard and 20 students from 12<sup>th</sup> standard were trained in subjects in which they failed so that the students could prepare in a better way for their further exams. The material and equipments used for teaching purpose by the teacher was very useful for the failed students examinations. GSS conducted coaching classes in the month of July – September 2003 at Viralimalai, 56 students attended classes.

Students started improving their efficiency. Combined studying, group discussion etc. helped the students to improve their knowledge and prepare best of their exams. This is also made them to develop interest towards learning. All the students appeared in 10<sup>th</sup> standard examinations got pass and joined in the higher classes.

#### 2.1.7 Follow-up Re-enrolled children:

The GSS staff team and animators have made follow-up visits to the schools, to observe the students' learning performance, their attendance and discussed with the class teachers and Head Masters about the students family background, his/ her ability and weakness. The animators or staff has visited the students homes and met their parents or elders of his/her family, to gives counseling to change their attitudes help to realize the impact of education and make the parental or family support their children's education.

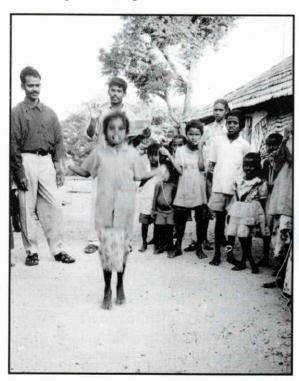
#### 2.1.8 Parents Meeting:

GSS organize parents meetings regularly in all villages. The purpose of the meetings are to sustain parental support for children's education. The following aspects were discussed in the parents meetings.

- Need for parental support for their children's education, contribution from parents
  to purchase textbooks, note books, slate, pencil, bag and uniforms. These aspects
  are continuously discussed because some parents are unaware that these things are
  important and neglect of these things put their children under severe tension and
  pressurize advice them to drop out from school.
- 2. The meetings strongly insist the parents to reduce children's burden of work at home kitchen work, fuel-wood collection, water-fetching etc. and to encourage them in reading, writings and school home-works.

The monthly parents meetings are regularly conducted by GSS staff in every village 12 meetings per village (320 meetings) were completed in 2003.

#### 2.1.9 Sports competition and Cultural Meet



Main aim of this programme is to encourage the NFE & SEC students get interested and participate in extra curricular activities, particularly sports, camps, and cultural activities. The animators are regularly conducting cultural and sports competitions in NFE, SE Centres. The students who got prizes at the center level have participated in the cultural and sports competition conducted by GSS at Viralimalai on 22 December 2003. Prizes were distributed to the first, second, third ranking students. This function was very encouraging and motivating for children; they are expecting this event in future also. We have invited government officials as chief guests to address the children and their parents and to distribute prizes. This was an opportunity to remind the government officials about their responsibility towards the working children and to popularize our activities among the people.

#### 2.1.10 Street Play:

GSS has its own cultural team comprising a group of animators to conduct the events such as Skit, Mime, Songs, Dances and mono-act on issues like child labour, importance of education, health, human rights, women's rights and child rights etc. The GSS has conducted 20 such programmes during the year 2003.

#### 2.1.11 Puppet Show on child right awarneness

A cultural team named 'Durairaj Tholpavai Koothu', of Madurai, was invited by GSS to conduct the Puppet Show, in order to create awareness among public. These shows were conducted during temple festivals, mass gathering in villages. Health issues, importance of education, Environmental Awareness and other useful messages were communicated through this programme. The villagers have received more knowledge and information, awareness through these shows. The village president, other influencial persons leaders or Temple Administrative committee have sponsored these shows in their villages. About 22 such shows were conducted and mobilized a sum of Rs. 33,000/ from the local people.

#### 2.1.12 Video Programme

Video shows were organized in the project villages during the community functions. As a regular activity, video shows are being used to create awareness among the public on health, education, self-employment, environmental protection, water harvesting, ecofarming, sustainable agriculture and other important social issues. This is a fund raising activity also. In 2003, GSS organized one video programme per project village.

For the local people, awareness on various social issues improved. Visible changes are noticed in the villages. The parent's realized thier mistake and removed the working children from work and to send them to school. Participation of the CBOs is also improved over the years. People are more aware of children's rights. They also realized the fact that "child labour" is a punishable offense.

#### 2.1.13 Village Education Committees (VECs)

Village education committees are monitoring bodies for children's education in the villages. It has representation from Village panchayats, schools, community based organizations and parents. In 2003, 10 new VECs are formed in the newly selected villages. GSS gained the support of local leaders, government officials and school teachers in their effort to form and run VECs.

GSS has conducted 120 VEC meetings in 30 villages (4 meetings per village). The following problems were discussed during the VEC Meetings.

- · Poor NFE students attendance
- Poor centre infrastructure
- Poor Home environment to support children's learning's
- Light facilities
- Local panchayat T.V. distributing the NFE classes
- Disturbance of Temple loud speaker noise
- · No street lights
- Problem of keeping teaching aids in the NFE-Centre

- Poor parental care etc.
- Lack of parental support for some of the NFE children
- Poor contributions from CBOs in the villages
- Poor communication skills and lack of interest of animators to organize meetings and camps.
- Trouble created by local youth in some villages
- Poor monitoring support from VEC members



Village Education Committee

Some of the solutions evolved during discussions in the committee meetings were:

- Increase the frequency of home-visits (weekly-twice) by the animators.
- Organise meetings of Cluster coordinators Assistant Coordinator and Coordinator with the parents of NFE students at regular intervals.
- Organise parent's meetings at houses of irregular students.
- Regularise the monitoring by local CBOs (Women SHGs, Youth Club members, Farmers forum, VECs) in all villages.
- Further improvement in the quality of NFE- Teaching- learning system through monitoring, encouragement and support to the animators, improved facilities to arrange meetings, health camps and street plays, video shows etc.
- ❖ Frequent meetings between animators and CBO members to discuss and review the functioning of NFE and SE system.

With the guidance from VECs, the animators improved their communication with the local people, parents, local leaders, SI4G representatives, youth club members. Representatives of CBOs started visiting the NFE centers at regular intervals. GSS is able to get good support from the CBOs and parents for the activities.

#### Workshop for VEC members:

GSS organized a workshop for VEC members at STAMIN Training Centre, Kudumiyanmalai on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2003. 120 VEC members from 30 villages participated in the workshop. The aim of the workshop was (i) to create awareness on education and child rights among the VEC members (ii) enabling them to realise the problems of child labour and elicit their support to abolish the system in their villages (iii) ensure their support and commitment to enroll all the children aged five and above into schools. Different methods like group discussions, role-play, lecture were used to make the workshop participatory and interesting. After the workshop, the VEC members expressed that they gained more knowledge about children's rights and the need for education for all and realized the adverse effects of child labour. They vowed strongly to support all initiatives for the elimination of child labour and enrollment of children to schools.



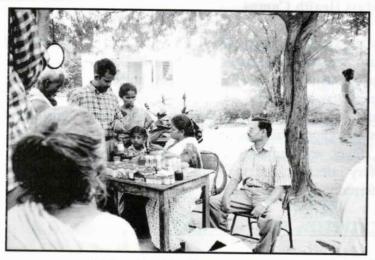
Workshop for VEC Members

#### 2. HEALTH AND HYGENIE ACTIVITIES:

#### 2. 2.1 Siddha Health Camps

Upto the end of Decmber- 2003, 140 mini- health camps were conducted in 30 villages. Around 1780 children and 1050 adults got treatment in the siddha health camps. Capsules, Tonic, Oils, Churanas, Lehiyam and other medicines were distributed to the patients. Valuable herbal medicines were available in the Siddha Unit of GSS. Number of villagers, women and children visit the Siddha unit of GSS and procure medicines. 58

children who had dermatological problems are cured by siddha medicines. More than 96 Vitamin deficient children were identified in the health camps. Vitamin A, B1, B2 and Calcium tablets were distributed to these children by GSS with the guidance of the nurse in Viralimalai Public Health Centre.



Siddha Health Camp

#### 2.2.2 Eye - Camps

Two eye camps were organized with the collaboration of Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai and District blindness prevention and control society of Pudukkottai District in Vanathirayanpatti Union Primary school on 16 August 2003 and another camp was conducted at Kovilpatti Travelers Bungalow on 18 December 2003. Around 875 patients benefitted in this programme. 175 men, 240 women and 460 school children. 96 cataract patients were screned and were called for further treatment. Some patients were provided with spectacles and others got medicines. Peoples from Vanathirayanpatti, Viruthapatti,



Eye Camp

Viralur, Sangampatti, Viralimalai, Kodumbalur, Kovilpatti, Uruvampatti, Meenaveli, Vellayagoundanpatti and other villages attended the camps.

#### 2.2.3 Mass Health Camps

Three Mass Health Camps were conducted in the villages of Panneerpatti on June 23, Eruthipatti and Alangampattti on June 23, September 18 and December 13 respectively. Two doctors of village Health Nurses volunteered in these three camps and GSS staff gave necessary assistance. 260 school students, 320 women and 415 men got free treatment. Mothers came with their babies to check their health problems. Some of the illnesses diagnosed and treated were infections, skin problems, Hyper tension, Hypo tension, fever, eye infections, Head ache, back pain, Renal track infection, Acute Respiratory infection, Asthma, Arthritis, throat infection, tuberculosis etc. Major cases were referred to other hospital for treatment.

#### 2.3 ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS:

#### 2.3.1. Workshop with Youth Club Members

Education and employment are always been a major problem in the project area. This is the main cause for youth unrest. In order to help the youth and adolescent to choose their career, GSS organized a workshop for the youth club members. This workshop was held at Government Higher Secondary School, Viralimalai on 1<sup>st</sup> June-2003. 100 youth from 30 youth clubs have participated in the workshop. Two resource persons from government departments- Mr. S. Gopalakrishnan, HRD- Consultant Pudukkottai and Branch Manager, I.O.B., Viralimalai, facilitated the workshop.

Mr. S. Gopalakrishnan ascertained the importance of Self-employment among youth particularly in rural areas. Youth should be able to choose suitable self- employment opportunities, based on available local resources, marke demand, transportation and then go forward to learn skills related to their chosen trade.

He advised that the rural youth who make efforts to communicate with right persons will get correct information and consultation regarding their trade. A right choice and a right approach must help them to pursue suitable opportunities. Hard work and sincere efforts and are the secret of success in our life.

#### 2.3.2 (i) Formation of Youth Clubs

GSS planned various activities for the youth and adolescents to improve the creativity and productivity of the young people for their own betterment and towards the better future of the community as a whole. With this view we started organizing youth clubs in all working villages. In 2003, 10 new youth clubs are formed in the new villages which raise the total to 30. More than 150 youths have become members of the newly formed groups. Meetings are regularly conducted by the members themselves. GSS facilitate the

meetings periodically. Savings, Bank Linkage, Micro-credit system has been adopted in all youth clubs. Sports, play materials and magazines are provided by GSS.

#### ii) Youth Federation

Representatives of 30 youth clubs join together and formed the youth federation. The youth federation meeting takes place once in three months at GSS Training Centre, Kilikkudi. In these meetings the representatives of youth clubs share their activities, works, camps, savings and micro-credit system with the rest of the group. They also present the plan of each youth club. Their plans include road pavement work, temple renovation work, assistance to siddha, eye camps and children's enrolment campaign. They discuss about employment opportunities for youth and the need of self-employment training programme.



Youth Federation Meeting

#### 2.3.3 Direct Training by GSS

#### (i) Training in cattle feed and poultry feed making

Trainees were selected from the farming families in 30 villages of our working area. This training was conducted at our training center Kilikkudi from 9.10.2003 to 11.10.2003. Three Experts Mr. Arunachalm, Mr. Shanmugam, Dr. Thiagarajan from State Agriculture Management Training Institute, Kudumiyanmalai. Nearly 30 trainees got training in various process of cattle feed making, poultry feed preparation, storing, marketing and utilization methods etc. Now they are trained and practicing in their own farms. Simultaneously they are also ready to give training for other members.

## (ii) Training on processing, packing and marketing of cereals, pulses, spices, masalas etc.,

This training was conducted at STAMIN training center from 5.8.2003 – 9.8.2003. Facilitaed Mr. Ramesh babu, from National Pulses Research Centre, Vamban. Trainees were selected from among the farmers families. Men and women were equally represented in this training. The totally 20 trainees were participated. They had learned about process of storage and marketing of food grains, cereals, pulses, bengal grams, cross cram, sorgam, pasara, termanine and other food items.

#### (iii) Tailoring and Embroidering Training for girls

In GSS project area, there are large number of youth who are totally illiterate or dropouts from the main stream education. Most of them are young girls from economically backward families, aged between 18 - 25 years, either unemployed or employed as casual labourers in jem cutting, agriculture and allied sectors. Although there is a graded improvement in the women status, disparities are still high in the field of education. The girls not having gone to school, have option than working as labourer in agricultural field or as domestic workers. GSS planned training on Tailoring and embroidering for such girls. With these training programmes they are equipped to start a home-based business and work independently. GSS has conducted training for 30 girls in tailoring for the six months. The tailoring center has 10 sewing machines and one embroidering machine teaching aids, charts, books etc. During the training period the students are taught 36 different items such as children's garments and ladies dresses etc., The result of the training programme is witnessed with immediate effect where 10 trained girls have started stitching cloths at their homes by purchasing own machines. Remaining trainees have applied for machine loan from District Rural Development Agency. These girls earn a monthly income of Rs. 450 - 600.

#### (iv) Coir Making

GSS has interviewed and selected trainees from the Thumbaiboo Self Help Group at Kurumbapatti village. This coir making training was conducted at Kurumbapatti village from 16.9.2003 – 17.10.2003. Totally 25, Self Help Group members undergone this training. This training was fully handled Mr. Kesavan, a full time resourse person from Kerala coir board as instructor of this training programme. They had equipped in coir thread, rope making and other process of coir rope making. After completion of the training programme the SHG members were provided with raw materials and coir machines to continue their activities. They have proposed to set up their own production unit from their groups saving money in the same village. They also have marketing linkages with agencies in Trichy, Pudukkottai and Viralimalai.

#### (v) Book binding

Book binding training for youths was conducted for 15 days, from in 3.10.2003 to 18.10.2003, for 15 youths. Out of them, 12 trained youth have started book binding work on their own and three persons are employed in other book binding centres.

#### 2.3.4 Referral Training

#### (i) Computer Training:

Nowadays, computer is an essential component in all sectors i.e., educational institutions, business concerns and other areas. The trained computer operators are wanted in all types of offices and their demand is growing day by day. GSS identified this as a potential area for unemployed rural youths. Thus GSS has trained five poor students in computer diploma course. A diploma in computer application will help them to get a job which would be supportive to the whole family. For this training programme, 5 youth were selected from our project villages. Applications were forwarded through CBOs in the villages, trainees were selected after studying their personal and family background and assessing aptitude for the training.

#### (ii) Training in Welding

The six month welding training programme was given to 3 youths from July to December 2003. During this skill training, trainees were taught gas welding of different kinds of pumps, home appliances and other item used in the villages. After completion of the training, the trainees are earning around Rs.750 – 1000 per month.

## (iii) Training in Repairing and Maintenance of Domestic Electronics (T.V., Radio, Camera, VCD, Player etc.,)

Six month repairing and maintenance of domestic TV, Radio training was given to 4 poor rural youth during July to December 2003. During this training trainees were imparted skills on repairing radio, television sets and tape recorder which are normally used by villagers.



Training in Repairing and Maintenance of Domestic Electronics

After completion of the domestic electronic training in 2003 the trainees have started pursuing self-employment or have taken up job.

#### (iv) Four Wheeler Driving Training

This is a 45 days training programme conducted in June - July 2003. GSS sponsored five unemployed rural youth for this driving training. The driving school is located in Viralimalai. It is located the nearest to the villages and has adequate transportation facilities. All trainees were interested in the training and they are being employed in various places.

#### (V) Lab Technician Course:

GSS has selected five girls for lab technician training. The duration of this course is one year starting from May 2003 to – February 2004. The trainees have agreed to pay half the fees, to the tune of Rs 1200 per person upon completion of the course, they will get employment in clinical lab in the city. Girls belonging to poor families are selected for this training.



Lab Technician Course

#### (vi) Typewriting course in English & Tamil

Six months Typewriting training was given to 10 poor rural young girls during July to December 2003. After attending the Typewriting training in 2003, the trainees have got employment opportunities in various offices.

#### 2.3.5 Follow-up and job placement

We have conducted carrier guidance for vocational trainees for their job placement. Scope and opportunities available in each trade were analysed and arranged placement for the trainees wherever possible.

**Details of Vocational Training** 

-	*	Se	ex wi	ise		ducati	on 1 WISE	Con	nmun	ity w	ise	Pres	ent si	tuation
SI. No	Name of the programme	M	F	Т	6_8	9_10	11_!2	FC	вс	sc	ST	Self- emplo yment		Waiting for job
1	Training in Cattle feed and Poultry feed making	30		30	3	17	10		22	8		30		
2	Processing packing and marketing of cerels, pulses, masalas	20		20	13	6	1	_	16	4		3	2	15
3	Tailoring and Embroidering		30	30	12	18	2		29	1		10	-	20
4	Coir Making	_	20	20	20	_	_	_	13	6	_	15	-	5
5	Book binding	8	7	15	6	8	1	_	11	4		12	3	-
6	Computer course	_	5	5		1	4	_	3	2	_	-	1	4
7	Welding	3	_	3		3	_	_	1	2	_	1	2	-
8	Training in Repairing	4	_	4	_	3	1	_	3	2	_	1	2	1
9	Four wheeler	5	_	5		_	5		2	3	_	- 100	5	-
10	Lab Technician	_	5	5			5		4	1	_	-	-	5
11	Typewriting English & Tamil	y be	10	10	_	3	7		4	6	_	-	-	10
12	Jute bag Training		20	20	8	10	2		13	7	_	6	10	4
	Total	70	97	167	60	69	38	_	121	46	_	78	25	64

Abbrevations: M-Male, F-Female, T-Total, FC-Farward class, BC- Backward class, SC-Schedulted Caste, ST- Sheduled Tribe.

#### 2.4. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

GSS has been working with women to enable them to take charge of their lives through personal, social and economic improvement and also to promote capabilities of rural women to protect child rights.

#### 2.4.1. Self-Help Groups of Women:

#### (i) Formation of new SHGs, strengthening old SHGs.

GSS formed 20 SHGs in the newly adopted villages. Around 400 women joined as members in the 20 self-help groups. The representatives in the newly formed SHGs were given Training in record maintenance and credit management by GSS. Weekly meeting, monthly savings, subscription, micro-credit system are usually conducted by these new groups.

#### (ii) Leadership and credit management training for SHG representatives

Two days training programme on Leadership and Credit Management Training held on 14 & 15 April 2003 at GSS training center, Kilikkudi. All staff members also participated in this programme. The SHG micro credit system, group functioning, leadership, book keeping, savings, linkages with formal financial institutions and government agencies and other development issues had been covered as syllabus in the training and by the three resource persons Mr. Sivasamy, from Venture (NGO), Ms. Chitra, from Trees Trust (NGO), Mr. Andichamy from Need Trust(NGO).

#### (iii) One day exposure visit to other NGOs

GSS has organized one day exposure visit for the members of self help groups in order to equip and improve their activities. Women SHGs organized under the guidance of an M.S. Chellamuthu Research center, Madurai was selected for visit. 120 members of SHGs from GSS visited Madurai and got more details and observed more aspects of management skills which the SHGs in Madurai follow in record maintenance, savings, soap making, cycle shop, Petti shops, Diary, poultry shop etc.,

#### (iv) Linkages with Banks :-

There are 58 SHGs at present. But of these 41 SHGs are linked with Nationalized banks. 25 groups received revolving fund from I.O.B., Viralimalai and Parambur branches. One SHG by name 'Roja' in Veppankannipatti in Annavasal block got 2.5 lakhs loan for their self-employment programme. Semparuthi SHG in Kallukattupatti making efforts to get the bank loan for their coir-making unit from I.O.B., Viralimalai branch.

#### Details of the Self help Groups

Year	No. of villages	No. of SHGs	Total members	Amt. of savings Rs.	Average savings per group	Per member savings Rs.
2001	17	31	518	1,04,527	3,371	201
2002	22	41	686	4,04,930	9,876	590
2003	30	63	947	5,61,712	12,153	593

#### (v) Workshop for SHG

Two days workshop on women empowerment was held at Thirumurugan Mahal, Viralimalai on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2003. The workshop had highlighted issues like dowry system, women rights, gender disparities and atrocities against women and girl children, female infanticide, child labour, child abuse etc. The workshop has helped the participants to realize the importance of education and they acquired more knowledge about women's rights, child rights, health care, especially reproductive child health etc.

#### 2.4.2 . Women's Day Celebration :

'Women's Day' was celebrated in the project area on April – 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003, at Thirumurugan Thirumana Mandapam, Viralimalai. 10 members from each women SHGs participated (41 SHGs) in the function. All staff and animators were also present on the occasion. Resource people were invited to talk on subjects like Women's Rights, Panchayat Raj System, Property Rights, Health Awareness and Social equality. 500 rural women had participated in the celebration. They also got more awareness related to their rights and importance of education and gender equality.

#### 2.4.3. IGP Training:

#### (i) Jute Training for Women:

GSS has conducted One month training programme in Jute products from 16<sup>th</sup> May – 2003 under the NABARD-REDP scheme. 20 suitable women members were selected from women self-help groups for this training. GSS introduced this training programme for rural women to enable them to take up employment as well as income generation programme. Only rural poor women are eligible for assistance under this programme. Wage labourers, unpaid daily workers, female-headed households, SC/ST women are given priority. This training programme was sponsored by National Bank for agriculture And Rural Development, Pudukkottai. For this training programmes, the trainees were selected by Asst. General Manager (District Development), National bank for Agriculture And Rural Development, Pudukkottai. The Project Monitoring Committee (Pre-Monitoring Committee) constituted by National Bank for Agriculture And Rural Development, Pudukkottai. Assistant General Manager, District Supply Marketing Society, Manager and the Director of GSS monitored the training programme. They committee assessed the programme and its impact.

#### Jute Products Exhibition

GSS has participated in the District Level SHGs Products Sales Exhibition held at Pudukkottai from 31.01.2003 to 04.02.2003. More than 20 SHGs from various destinations had put up stalls at the exhibition ground managed by DRDA and District Women Development Corporation to sell their products like food products, handicrafts, fiber products, fancy materials made of bamboo, herbal powders, siddha medicines, cashew nuts, phenoil, candles, puffery items etc. GSS displayed SHGs products such as Jute fancy bags, siddha medicines and herbal nursery plants. SHGs of GSS sold products for Rs. 12,300/- through this exhibition. The Pudukkottai District Collector Mr. Hitesh Kumar Makwana and the District Superintendent of Police Miss. Vidhya D. Kulkarni and the DRDA Project Officer Mr. P. Selvarajan visited GSS stall and purchased a number of Jute bags and procured siddha medicines. The higher officials appreciated the efforts of SHGs and GSS.



**Jute Products Exhibition** 

#### 2.5. FARMERS FORUM:

The aim of farmers forum is to gather the men folk in the villages to canalizes their energy towards sustainable agriculture and village development.

#### 2.5.1 (i) Formation of Farmers forum in 10 new villages

Ten new farmers groups are formed in the newly adopted villages. Around 230 farmers have joined as members in these forums. Savings and micro-credit system has been introduced in each group.

#### 2.5.2. (ii) Monthly Farmers Group Meeting

The drought situation in Tamil Nadu was so severe this year with at least 14 districts suffered with crop failure and acute drinking water shortage. Cultivation of short-term 'Kuruvai' has come to a near standstill in most parts as the storage in reservoirs has dismally dipped to less than a quarter of their total capacity. Pudukkottai is one of the most drought hit districts. GSS has organized monthly farmers meetings and intensified increasing efficiency in water storage and use for different purposes in view of the ever growing scarcity. A large quantity of rainwater is getting wasted. It is important to create awareness among farmers on how to use water efficiently. GSS is propagating the need of Water harvesting pits from huts to pucca houses.

All farmers groups have regular monthly meetings on convenient dates decided by them. Problems arising from their paddy, vegetable cultivation, new techniques, their field problem solving, introduction of sustainable agri-practices like Bio-fertilizer, i.e., Vermi-compost, bio-pesticides like 'Panchakavyam' were discussed in these meetings.

#### 2.5.3 Exposure visit to other organic farms:

This Farmers exposure visit was intended to give the farmers an opportunity to learn about innovative methods in agriculture, hybrid varieties in cereles, pulses, fruits, agrotech equipment designed by agro engineers. For this visit Tamilnadu Agriculture College and Research Institute, Madurai was selected. Around 60 farmers from the farmers forum in our project area were selected as beneficiaries. The TNAC & RI provided demonstration about the irrigation and new cultivation methods, time saving, manpower planning etc. After the exposure visit farmers realized reliability of all new hybrid varieties and they were interested to know about cultivation methods.

#### 2.6 Networking and Lobbying

A one day workshop on Networking & Lobbying with other NGOs and Government, was organized by GSS on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2003 at Viralimalai. Mrs. Sobana District Revenue officer delivered a talk about the old age pension, widows and disabilities schemes etc. She also spoke on awareness programme, vocational training non-formal schools running by state government for educational improvement. Illuppur Thasildar spoke about the concept of rural development he promised to redress the revenue grievances. District Rehabilitation Officer spoke about problems of persons living with disabilities in Pudukkottai district and various schemes for them. District continuing education coordinator spoke about women, literacy and role of literacy in a developing society. Apart from this various government officials like Assistant Professor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary Medical University training center, public relations Officers, NGO representatives also participated and spoke about various welfare schemes. A procession was organized towards the Panchayat Commissioner office with demand mentioning providing water,



Networking and Lobbying

Road, Street light etc. More than 1500 women, youth, farmers, students and the public participated in the workshop and it was a grand success.

#### 4. ORGANISATIONAL AND PROGRAMME SUSTAINABILITY

#### (i) Video Show

GSS has its own LCD projector, which is used in awareness programmes in the field, and also serves as an important source for resource mobilization for its programme sustainability. Each month 10 to 20 video programmes were organised. Up to the end of December 31<sup>st</sup> –2003, GSS has mobilized around Rs. 1,50,000/-, through video screening.

#### (ii) Puppet Show:

GSS mobilized Rs. 33,000/- through puppet show during temple festival and other village functions.

#### (iii) NFE - Book Sales:

During this year, GSS sold NFE Books, 'Koodi Karpom' 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> level to other NGOs, in Government sponsored programmes and to individuals. In this way Rs. 55,000/- was mobilized.

#### (iv) Nursery Plants Sales:

GSS has 30 farmers groups in its 30 project villages. Around 565 farmers are members in these groups. During the period of January to December - 2003, around 15,600 tree plants, green health nursery plants and herbal plants are sold to the farmers groups. The worth of the plants distributed is Rs. 75,000/-

#### (v) Marketing of Siddha Medicines

During January to December – 2003, the siddha unit of GSS sold siddha medicines like Churanam, pain relief oil, Lehiyam, cough relief liquid during the rural siddha camps, conducted. During this year, 180 siddha camps, were conducted in the project villages. Around Rs. 1,75,000 is mobilized through the sale of Siddha medicines.

#### (vi) Local Contributions

Individual donors made donations in cash and kind. The total amount received through donation is Rs.64,000/- from January to December-2003.

Sl. No.	ACTIVITIES	AMOUNT
1.	Video show	1,50,000
2.	Puppet show	33,000
3.	Siddha medicine	1,75,000
4.	Nursery plant sales	75,000
5.	NFE- Books sales	55,000
6.	Donation collected from corporate sectors & individuals	64,000
	Total	5,52,000

#### OTHER PROGRAMMES

#### 1. National Environment Awareness Campaign

GSS had conducted one day awareness programme on 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 2003 in collaboration with C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar Foundation, Chennai. The programme was held at Viralimalai. The theme of the awareness programme was (Valwin Atharam Neer) 'life resource is water. Then cycle rally was conducted in and around of Viralimalai villages.

#### 2. Popularization of Science

One-day programme of popularization of Science was conducted by our organization on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2003 at Government High School, Kodumbalur with the help of Tamil Nadu State Council for Science & Technology, Chennai on this programme competitions were held for school students on subjects related to science and Technology. Quiz programme, elocution, exhibition etc. were handled by District Teacher Training Institute, Teachers. Around 300 students participated in this programme.

#### INTERNAL MONITORING SYSTEM

GSS has been practicing a three-tier monitoring system for controlling and monitoring the progress of the various project activities.

I level: Monitoring is through ensuring the regular functioning of the NFEs and SECs.

This is done by the youth club members. CBOs also get involved in monitoring the centers.

II Level: Action plan is made on a fortnightly basis to be and follow up is done by cluster co-ordinators. During their visit to NFE and SE Centres, they are verifying the attendance, visitors note, youth club note, SHG records, Farmers records, VEC record etc. and also cross checking the teaching ability of the teachers.

**Third level :** Assistant Co-ordinator, Co-ordinator, Director visits based on the Cluster Co-ordinator reports with due importance given to the problem areas and grievances to be handled.

Statistics of Programmes

			Beneficiaries	
Programme Components	Area of Intervention	2003 Planned	2003 Achieved	2004 Plan
	Non-Formal Education	500	510	400
	Enrolment in government schools	600	619	600
EDUCATION	Extra-Curriculum coaching / Supplementary Education	500	812	400
	Vocational & Skill training	149	167	178
COMMUNITY	Income generating Enterprises	120	134	300
DEVELOPMENT	Self-Help Group members	760	718	1000
RE-INTEGRATION	In a temporary shelter home with their families	Nil	Nil	Nil

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2003**

- 1. 10 old NFE centers are closed and another 10 started in the newly adopted villages.
- 2. 175 NFE students are admitted in the 6-8<sup>th</sup> standards in 2003. whereas in 2002, as against 162 in 2002. During 2003 there are 510 children are benefited through NFE centers.
- 3. 812 slow learners are helped through our SE Centres, 25 S.S.L.C students with poor academic record passed the examination through Supplementary Education Centres.
- 4. 169 children aged five years are enrolled in the formal schools in 2003

- Youth club members are actively involved in renovation of roads replaced 5 street lamps, planted 2000 trees on the road side, improved their Leadership quality and savings and credit management skills.
- 6. Most of the trainees are either employed or created their own employment opportunities.
- 7. Number of women SHGs have increased from 41 in 2002 to 63 and the total savings increased from Rs. 404930 to 561712 in 2003. Most of the SHGs have passed the banking grading system. Now they are ready to get revolving fund through District Rural Development Agency.
- 8. 36 H.S.C., Students and 20 S.S.L.C students have passed in their failed subjects through GSS's special coaching.
- 9. 20 street plays, 20 video shows, were conduted for children and the public on child labour, importance of education, the role of parents in providing education to children and Health Hygine. Around 2400 people participated in the progamme.
- 10. 80 VEC meetings were conducted in the year 2003.
- 11. 140-siddha health camp were conducted in the year 2003, Around 1780 children, 1050 adults benefited through these camps.
- 12. In 2003, GSS raised Rs. 5,52,000 as local contribution through various activities.

#### **OUR PERSONNEL**

Sl. No.	Name of the Staff	Designation		
1.	Mr. M. R. Palanichamy	Director		
2.	Mr. M. Sevuga Perumal	Project Co-ordinator		
3.	Mr. V. Senthil Arasu	Assistant Project Co-ordinator		
4.	Mr. P. Rajendran	Clerk – cum- Accountant		
5.	Ms. P. Rajeswari	Office secretary		
6.	Mr. S. Lawrance	Cluster Co-ordinator		
7.	Mr. V. Chinnappa	Cluster Co-ordinator		
8.	Mr. P. Sivakumar	Cluster Co-ordinator		
9. Mr. V. Dharmalingam		Cluster Co-ordinator		
10.	Mrs. K. Kayarkanni	Siddha Practitioner		
11.	Mr. T. Kannadasan	Nursery Supervisor		

### OUR FIELD LEVEL PERSONNEL

SI. No	Name of the Animators	Designation
1	S. Periyanayagi	Animator
2	K. Chitradevi	Animator
3	K. Sangeetha	Animator
4	S. Devi	Animator
5	R. Sathiya	Animator
6	K. Janaki	Animator
7	N. Tamilselvi	Animator
8	M. Dhanalakshimi	Animator
9	G. Alagammal	Animator
10	J. Rukkumani	Animator
11	R. Chitramani	Animator
12	K. Siva	Animator
13	T. Selvi	Animator
14	S. Palaniyandi	Animator
15	N. Palanichamy	Animator
16	Y. Karpura Sundara Pandiyan	Animator
17	S. Vellayammal	Animator
18	S. Banumathi	Animator
19	A. Pushparani	Animator
20	C. Muthujothi	Animator
21	M. Alagumeena	Animator
22	S. Vijaya	Animator
23	P. Gomathijeyam	Animator
24	S. Saraswathi	Animator
25	M. Bharathi	Animator
26	C. Dhanapackiyam	Animator
27	T. Amutha	Animator
28	V. Renuga	Animator
29	P. Dhanam	Animator
30	M. Archunan	Animator
31	P. Devakumar	Animator
32	T. Krishnan	Animator
33		
	P. Periyasamy	Animator
34	R. Udhayakumar	Animator
35	P. Mamundi	Animator
36	R. Selvam	Animator
37	P. Elumalai	Animator
38	A. Loganathan	Animator
39	M. Koikila	Animator
40	P. Deepa	Animator
41	M. Sivakumar	Animator
42	K. Kumar	Animator
43	S. Revathy	Animator
44	A. Malliga	Animator





"Ensure every child a childhood, free from all fears, engulfed with joy and the power to remove disability, regain dignity and move from strength to strength, achieving ability, gaining growth, striding ahead-safe and sure of a purposeful and peaceful tomorrow".



## GRAMA SEVA SANGAM

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