

VOC RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER-(VOCRDC)
Society Reg. No: 22 / 96



ANNUAL REPORT
2017 – 2018

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Greetings.

As we move forward in 2019 and beyond, I am proud of what VOCRDC accomplished in 2018 and excited about the future. Our community is strong and vibrant, and together we will continue our efforts to eliminate extreme poverty, uphold human rights, safeguard a sustainable planet and ensure human dignity for poor and vulnerable populations.

At this moment of greatest gratitude and thanks, I am privileged to present our Annual Report of 2017 – 2018.

The biggest reason we were able to find ‘hope’ was because of all the unwavering love and support from our donors.

We would like to thank each and every one of donors for their kind hearts and their wishes to accompany our mission every step of the way.

Together VOCRDC will always lend a helping hand to find the hope of ‘self-reliance’ among those who struggle from poverty. We will relay the warmth of our donors to our neighbors in developing countries so that the beneficiaries can assist others in the future.

Our success is the community’s success. With the ongoing support of our donors, partners, Board and volunteers, VOCRDC is ready for the challenges and achievements ahead.

Thank you

Mrs.S.Latha
PRESIDENT, VOCRDC

Secretary's Forward Note

VOCRD keeps the cordial relationship with the local administration, district administration and the Government, has been able to build partnerships with communities and foreign grant agencies and government line departments and affluent individuals.

We are happy to share our experiences with our communities and donors on diversified intervention priorities and count your valuable guidance and support in bringing in positive changes in the lives of the targeted.

By way of making our desired impacts in lives of deserved we are strengthen relationships with likeminded working groups, networks in delivering timely interventions, guidance, and supports.

We hope to count on the supports in delivering more need based community participatory designed projects in the years to come.

I extend my sincere most honest thanks with gratitude to all our partners, donors for their generous supports to step forward in our journey of welfare and development activities of disadvantaged communities.

With gratitude and thankfulness as a Secretary I took privilege to present this Annual Activity Report 2017 – 2018 exhibiting our accountability and credibility across the spheres of our interventions.

With sincere thanks,

R.S. Ramasamy

Secretary

VOC RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Our Foreign grants supported projects

Project 1. "Conserving Pitchavaram Native Mangroves by Community Research & Field Monitoring efforts"

GOAL:

Conserve Pitchavaram Mangrove Forest through organizing Impact assessment and Research study and Community involved efforts

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. To assess the evaporation of stagnant tidal water increased both the soil and groundwater salinity to a level which is lethal to mangrove species in the Pichavaram area.
2. To conduct the study on hypothesized that degraded areas of the Pichavaram mangrove wetland could be restored through community efforts.
3. To organize the Dug of feeder Canals activities on to cover the entire degraded area
4. To make survival of mangrove species and study the Pitchavaram mangrove area
5. To increase the soil and ground water salinity and increased soil moisture through creating the Artificial Canal system facilitated free flow of Tidal water
6. To increase Community participation and make them play a vital role on conserving the Pichavaram Mangroves by Building community structures
7. To conduct the Research on the Pichavaram mangrove wetlands, the spatial distribution of the flora can be broadly classified into three different zones
8. To assess the soil properties and make necessary efforts to restoring it
9. To conduct the assessment study on the Pichavaram mangrove wetland is interconnected with the estuaries of the VellarRiver (north) and UppanarRiver (west).
10. To organize Capacity Building Training on Fisheries resources and possible utilization of Coastal communities & Fishermen folks on it in the Pitchavaram estuaries



11. To conduct Awareness Meeting and Public Propaganda efforts on the general factors that affect the mangrove ecosystems are loss of habitat, human interference, trade and overexploitation etc.

12. To organize Clean up Drives Events on to increase the People participation for Pitchavaram mangrove conservation



13. To provide Training on Pest control and prawn farming practices on to conserve the Pitchavaram mangrove area

14. The Pichavaram mangrove wetland receives copious inflow of freshwater during the northeast monsoon season (October-December) through the Coleroon and Uppanar rivers through community efforts.

15. To promote Fish nurseries over the Coastal Women SHGs for conserving the mangroves in Ptichavarm Estuaries.

This project obviously on a main canal was dug in the middle portion of the degraded areas from which a large number of feeder canals were dug, covering the entire degraded area.



A mangrove forest harbours a group of plant species that grow well in the estuarine areas – where salinity undergoes constant changes due to freshwater flow and where the substratum is composed of accumulated deposits of river-borne sediment. A mangrove forest is intersected by a number of tidal canals, channels and creeks and large open water bodies, where the water level varies daily due to tidal inflow and outflow, as well as seasonally due to freshwater discharge.

Then the main canal was connected to the nearby natural canals. This artificial canal system facilitated free flow of tidal water, which gradually decreased the soil and groundwater salinity and increased the soil moisture, making the degraded areas suitable for mangrove growth. As a result, mangrove species planted in the demonstration site showed more than 80% survival, and growth was comparable to seedlings planted in the non-degraded areas. The large open water body found associated with the Pichavaram mangrove wetlands is the estuarine region of the Uppanar River.

Through program activity the earlier dug main feeder canal and the natural inter connecting canals was dug to correction of river water confluence with removal of silt and tourism pollutions. This was carried

out with the physical labor of 168 members in core and support groups. By the success of this demonstration, a community-based joint mangrove management system was introduced in the Pichavaram mangrove wetland; by which all other degraded areas have been restored following the canal method outlined above. In the joint mangrove management system, the local community plays a dominant role in sustaining these restoration efforts by desilting the artificial canals dug in the resorted areas wherever needed and protecting young plantations against grazing, if any. Thus, a science-based, community-centred and process-oriented approach followed is mainly responsible for the restoration of the Pichavaram mangrove wetland.

Project 2. “Improving Lifestyle of First Generation Girls in the Scavenger community by Best Professional Training Initiatives on Self Employable Trade Skills with marketing supports”

The syllabus oriented training manual, materiel and methodology of conducting training workshop, venue, on-hand demonstrative training, expert trainers identification and places for exposure visits were done preparatory in the last 7 days in June.



In an auspicious and suitable day the 4-months workshop commenced with VOCRDC staff team and stakeholders participation on 7 July 2017. The workshop last for a period between 7 July 2017 and 7 November 2017 for the stipulated duration in each trades i.e., 4 months, 2 months and 3 months.



Each of trades i.e., Tailoring & Embroidery - (25 girls for 4 months training), Jute based Handicrafts making - (25 girls for 2 months training), Food Processing – (25 girls for 3 months training) separate experienced master trainer conducted the workshop. Each of the trainees was given separate training manual and training material support.

OUTPUTS ACHIEVED

1. About 75 adolescent girls from First Generation from Scavenger Community benefited.
2. Individual credit access and financial management profile of 75 adolescent girls from First Generation from Scavenger Community enhanced appreciably.
3. Individual proof of income increase of of75 adolescent girls substantially increased
4. Increase of internal savings by the 75 adolescent girls are apparently evident.
5. Incidences of healthcare supports extended to 75 adolescent girls families increased.
6. Incidences of education support to children to 75 adolescent girls families increased.
7. Proofs of 75 adolescent girls beneficiaries rescued from third party money lenders established.



Project 3. “Farmers association watershed program”

We have implemented 860 Ha in Vadipatti Taluk Watershed area of Mettupatti, Thethur, kolingipatti, and Ramarajapuram villages in Madurai District. We constituted one community Based Organization named as Village Watershed Committee with the Executive Committee by giving representation for Women and Landless agri coolies. The VWC is being trained to implement the program.



Watershed and the Wasteland development aspects are interlinked because a wasteland left out without using for cultivation will be or could be fertilized with the development of watershed. During the rainy season the watershed may help to preserve water and that could be used for the cultivation of wasteland.

As we all know the agricultural cultivation is diminishing day by day and there is nobody else to take initiatives to develop new techniques in cultivation and most of the lands are left without cultivation.

The present trend of preparing the agricultural land as plots for the house is increasing day by day and the cultivation lands are simply destroyed and minimized.



The Development and protection of Natural Resources is one of our objectives. In order to materialize the objectives and with the vast experience in the same field VOC RDC is being coordinating with Watershed/Wasteland Development Programs. We have constituted 19 community Based Organizations i.e. Village Watershed Committees and trained them towards the sustainability of the programme in the targeted watershed area.



Our Local Donation supported projects

Project 1. Right education program

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, largely as a result of gender inequality and their lack of social, economic and political power. Protection of women's rights is important for the achievement of children's rights and, conversely, protection of children's rights is important for the achievement of women's rights. Women's and children's rights in a human rights based approach to development is the priority of VOC RDC as mentioned in Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).



VOC RDC in consideration of sexual exploitation, trafficking and vulnerability to pandemic disease conditions conducts RCH education. The program minimizes the incidences of mother and child mortality rates, malnourished and under-nourished conditions. RCH education is given in participation of Anganwadi workers and block development coordinators of ICDCs and PRIs. It also develops community level health workers and enables timely response to emergency situations and refers to the Medical practitioners for follow-ups. As a part of nutrition education, MCH, RH and SRH are imparted to the Anganwadi workers, community health workers, and caregivers.

1. It is a sensitizing and combat and advocacy program in an organized way and developed selective 40 women from Right Groups. Areas addressed include law reform, rights in the family, violence against women and children, health, HIV/AIDS, education, trafficking, labor right, workplace policy, and institution building, combat and advocacy and monitoring.

2. Special observance on international women right day, child right day and human right day are organized and conducted in sensitive areas as public awareness generation program.

Project 2. Sanitation and healthProgram

In the social development of the disadvantaged section Health occupies an indispensable part. Individuals, community and village are very important for any kind of development. Considering the closer interaction with health and hygienic sanitation practices the program starts with awareness generation, identification of households and works for the prevention of ground water contamination, water borne diseases and pathogenic infections.

In considering the open defecation, water borne disease spreads and water quality management prime needs constructed so far 1100 Low Cost individual Toilets to the households of Thirumangalam and Vadipatti Blocks with the subsidy from District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Madurai and people's contribution of free labour. In the mentioning year we have constructed 100 individual low-cost toilet in Vadipatti Block.

Project 3. Mainstreaming of Child Labor and School Drop Out

The program benefited 50 school children dropouts targeted through Bridge School in 5 places. The school children dropout in the Stone quarry worker's families and poor literacy percentage of parents and adults are widely observed and through the Bridge School 50 school going children



dropouts were mainstreamed in government schools. VOC RDC has made a milestone in reaching 471 of such children so far in the operation.

Special event was organized during Harvest Day that has promoted promotes harmonious living with nature and peace in the communities.

Various competitions like Sports, music, Rangoly, musical chair and traditional folklore were conducted. Meals were supplied to all the participants.

Project 4. Disabilities Group Promotion & Strengthening program

Organizing Self Help Groups are the vital component of the functioning of the community through collective efforts. Our organization would like to continue its service performances on the field of social development. For achieving this we have formed self-help groups among the Differently abled (Persons with Multiple Disabilities – such as Physically handicapped, Visually impaired etc.,) Every year we have organized new self-help groups among the women and disadvantaged community and make them to use our beneficiaries for their sustainability. During this year we have conducted a special program on Capacity Building to empowering the SHG leaders of the Disability groups and also the members. This Program created a platform to the rurally backward disabled persons on educating various issues surrounding them and finding solutions to rectify it by collective efforts and community involvement. This facilitates the Disability group members on to understand the Group Dynamics, enhancing Leadership Qualities, Managing Stress and eventual recessions within the group, Directing group into a common goal, facilitating members for obtaining various services etc., It also provides the information about how to assess the performance activities, loan repayment capacity, involvement of members and local issues and problems.

Project 5. Environmental Awareness and Conservation Management of Mangrove and endangered endemic trees and mammals and birds.

The program was organized with local communities and environment activists on mass oath on prevention of non-decomposable polythene bags usages in Vadipatti Block and keep a plastic pollution free Block. The required arrangements pertaining to it is well organized and special dignitaries invited for interactive sessions with the communities organized.

The theme of the deliberation and interaction was deterioration of environment and natural resources polythene disposals. The influence of monoculture promotion on the native species and restoration possibilities on afforestation methods were vividly explained and discussed with the communities.

Scientific study was being conducted in Palani Hills of Western Ghats and Sirumalai of Eastern Ghats in exploring endangered trees, mammals and developed grassroots action plan in conservation management, afforestation and prevention of poaching.

Project 6. Rural Women's Health Awareness

In the growing vulnerability to life threatening illness and incidences of health deterioration and pandemic disease infection is prevalent among disadvantages sections of society. This program is designed with vaccination and support of nutrition, and education to the infected and affected children in Oddanchatram.

It is the support program of affected and infected HIV/AIDS families' children and women on referral services, support of nutrition supplementation, and education.

On every 3 months the cervical cancer, TB and Cancer awareness program is conducted in the disease prevalent villages and supported with referral medical services to government hospitals and screening camps.

VOCRDC office bearers and members actively involved in the vaccination program with the government and participated in the prevention of Polio. And also organized screening camps of Dengue, and viral fever and sensitized the communities on the control of mosquito breeding and bites. Screening on Avian flu, swine flu viruses and influenza is also added in the screening camps.

Project 7. Youth Empowerment Program

Selected youths with bad behaviors and in the clutches of social evil rehabilitation development service plans with each youth and his/her family and regularly monitor progress toward meeting established goals. Visit young people at their schools, connecting with appropriate school staff and faculty to ensure young people have their educational needs met and ensured that the young people have access to basic need supports such as adequate food, clothing and shelter and provided essential medical, counseling. Engage the targeted youth participants in regular mentoring and enrichment activities and assisting in attending regularly scheduled career exploration, life skills development and substance abuse group activities.

Project 8. Evening Tuition Center Establishment

In the mentioning year 43 children were provided support in furthering their education to higher studies on contingent package of books, dress, notebooks and monetary support.

The program is managed with self-generated funds from public contributions. Prior to the event the beneficiary children were identified based on the criteria socio-economic status and family economics.

This self-funded program is designed to address the more prevalent child labor, school children dropouts' villages through 3-Childcare Learning Centers – CLCs.

Our Gratitude and Appeal

VOCRDC – VOC Rural Development Center has a range of partners for working together to achieve common objectives and would like to thank all the Supporting bodies, Funding agencies, Government line departments, officials, resource team and friends who were generously supported to make the noble cause during the year 2017 – 2018. Our gratitude and sincere thanks to all who makes us a productive path in social development sector by providing their generous supports. We thank our all partners for their continuing commitment to empowering poor community during this year and the upcoming years as well.

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