

ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ARCOD)



Annual Report for the year 2014 - 2015



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Association for Rural Community Development (ARCOD)

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The activities of ARCOD are focussed towards development of children for for the past 7 years. ARCOD continued to work towards achiving the goals with a vision of empowering Rural Poor, Dalits, Adivasis, Marginal and Small Farmers Women and Children in its operational areas for socio, economic, political and health empowerment.

Following activities were carried out during the year 2014-15.

Mozhi Project:



ARCOD started working to ensure quality education for the children of linguistic minorities in in May 2009 with the support of Aide et Action, France. ARCOD carried out various activities till December 2014 to improve the competency level of the children. In the year 2014, the No. of working schools was 16 (Thally – 7, Kelamangalam – 5 and Shoolagiri – 4) covering 2517 children. ARCOD facilitated the functioning of School Management Committees

(SMCs) and Sponsorship correspondence Committees (SCCs) which in filling up of teacher vacancies and 100% enrollment of children in schools. This year the special focus was given to Comprehensive Plan for Education (CP4E). Awareness created on Comprehensive Plan for Education for communities, schools, parents, Students, teachers, School Management committee members and Panchayat Raj Institutions. This resulted in better quality of education.

ARCOD participated in a survey initiated on the “Status of the World’s Education” in 10 countries including India and Nepal. Mozhi project took part in the survey and covered 2 villages (one working and one non-working area).35 children between the age group of 8-16 years and 35 parents along with the teachers were covered. The study outputs were fed into the country report. Drawing training was given to 492 children. A multi lingual “Language Lab” was established in Chinnadinnur village of Soolagiri block supporting Tamizh, Telugu and Kannada students. Some of the Foster parents visited their children and spent the day with them to understand and support them better. It was enjoyed by the kids and the sponsors.

Awareness campaign & Rally was conducted in Thally block for enrollment of children above 5 years in school. Summer camp was conducted covering 11 children clubs in Kelamangalam block. To highlight issues of linguistic minority on quality education, advocacy workshops were held in 3 blocks. Govt. officials from education department, School management Committee, PRI, Parents and SHGs actively participated. School Annual day was revived in many schools that had earlier stopped celebrating. As a result many more children joined school with enthusiasm. The volunteer teachers were given training in spoken English and in turn they were able to train the students. The Mozhi Project followed the initiative of TN Forces and oriented children to claim their rights and express their needs to the candidates standing for MP elections. In Krishnagiri district 15 such MP candidates were met by children and were given a draft on their needs. The candidate won MP election and now has been followed through to address issues concerning children in the district.



The project has been completed in December 2014.

ARCOD – India Literacy Project, Krishnagiri – Facilitating the functions of SMCs and Anganwadis

ARCOD is working to strengthen the functions of **School Management Committees (SMCs)** and Anganwadis to ensure quality learning by children of linguistic minorities by orienting them on the importance of their role. The project is supported by India Literacy Project, USA.



Conducted Children Competency Assessment to the children in schools to know the competency level of the children and *monitored School Attendance of the children* to improve the teaching learning process.

Anganwadi Centres (AWC): Twenty AWCs were assessed based on the criteria set by the govt. and it was found that only 5% followed the system regularly. While ARCOD discussed the issues with fathers on their responsibilities they formed a Mother's Committees in all 20 AWCs and oriented them on their roles. The AWC – Teachers learnt better skills to keep the children constructively

engaged through the trainings and get to gather organized by ARCOD. Better rapport has been established with Anganwadi workers, Parents and community members. The AWC - Children attendance increased from 60% to 80%. Children got motivated to stay full time in the centre.



ARCOD played a very significant role to mark the **“Silver Jubilee “of UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child)**. ARCOD conducted Essay Writing, Oratorical and Drawing competitions at school level first (562 schools and 5976 children participated) and then to block level (1479 students participated) and concluded it at the District level (246 children participated) Both Govt.

and Aided schools participated with enthusiasm. Mr. A.L. Rangarajan, Program Manager (Strategy), ILP, Mr. A. Renganathan, VRDP, Salem, Mr. P. Chandrasekar, President and other members from the board of ARCOD distributed prizes and participation certificates to the winners at district level competitions. Students, teachers, parents, and representatives from various NGOs participated in the program.

Home Based Care Project:

The project was implemented in 30 selected habitations of Thally and Kelamangalam blocks of Krishnagiri District with the support of UNICEF, Chennai. Home Based Care during **Ante Natal and Post Natal** was given to about 220 mothers in 16 selected habitations through



Village Health Workers. 30 adolescent clubs were formed and 29 were functional, 1 club was non - functional due to non - availability suitable mentor. The club mentors were trained by Aid India and ARCOD. The prime focus of mentoring was on Mathematics, Science, Tamizh and life skill education. Regular review meetings were conducted for both the adolescent club mentors and village



Health workers and necessary changes were made in strategies to improve quality of life of the poor.

Specialists and consultants from UNICEF along with ARCOD discussed with the core team about the methodologies, strategies and suggestions regarding the health aspects and improved the work plan for Home Based Care for AN & PN Mothers. They also visited a PHC in Anchetty (a remote area) and Urigam working habitation to assess situation better. Discussing about Home Based Care, antenatal and post natal protocols and guidelines with ARCOD staff and brought improvement in the same. Quarterly meetings were organized with the stakeholders in all 30 habitations. Parents of children, Panchayat President, Panchayat Vice President, Ward Members, leaders of the village and members of SHGs participated in the meeting. The parents and other stakeholders requested to continue the project for at least two more years as they will be able to find out ways forward. The opportunity was used to spread a word among the participants about the importance of their role in ensuring care for the Ante Natal and Post natal Mothers.



Club Melas were conducted in all 29 clubs once in every quarter till October 2014. This platform helped the adolescents to show case their talents through cultural events. A concept was developed based on which awareness on Childline was the message which was carried out to the adolescents



and their parents. Issues like child marriage; child labor were enacted by the adolescents in the club of the respective villages while the parents and the community participated in the evening programme. Games were conducted for the adolescents and also for the community for cooperative participation in the club Melas.

Summer camp was conducted for at Krishnagiri for 29 Adolescent Club Children in different batches. In which 607 children participated. While children had opportunities to exhibit their talents and skills they concentrated

on bringing positive changes in their Physical and Psychological development and change in behavior to improve their life now and in future. The **Childline 1098** team members created awareness among the adolescents about the “Child Rights” & “Child Marriage”, rehabilitation of the Child Labors & Run away children and abandoned children. The adolescents eagerly participated in Male & Female Body Mapping. Separate sessions were facilitated to discuss the issues faced by the adolescent boys and girls. During these sessions many games were conducted to cheer up the adolescents as well as after the sessions the children had a visit to Krishnagiri Dam and Children’s park located near the KRP Dam during this visit cultural programs and outdoor games were conducted to the children. While quality food was provided for children nutritional education was also given side by side. While several Challenges were faced by ARCOD in organizing and conducting the camp, they also became useful learning for them for future.

ARCOD – CHILDLINE PROJECT



In the year 2014 – 15, ARCOD Childline has had significant outcomes because of their facilitations and swift interventions. The team of Childline **stopped 55 child marriages** in various blocks in Krishnagiri District. In Manjubetta village, Kelamangalam block a mass child marriage was planned and this was brought to the notice of ARCOD. With the immediate action 8 of those child marriages were stopped immediately. 28 child labourers have been rejoined at the school. 2 new born babies were sent to the adoption centre

through CWC. Different types of counseling to the children were given, 103 persons got General counseling, 25 for Child marriage cases, 13 given free medical treatment, rejoining at the school and counseling for physical abuse. 10 children received medical help and 18 were supported by medical counseling for free medical equipment at collectorate like hearing machine, walking stick, wheel chair etc. ARCOD received 11 missed children cases and forwarded the same to the Childline bureau net, police department for searching the missed children. 2 of them have already been handed over to their parents. ARCOD Childline rescued 27 children from physical abuse by the parents and teachers, 13 children from sexual abuses, 3 children from physical and mental abuses.

67 very poor children were helped from client related funds for various purposes as purchase of books, clothing, stationary and medical help. 24 socially economic backward children having single

parent were helped to join homes and shelters run by NGOs and Government. 16 physically challenged were helped for utilizing government schemes. In the medical camp organized for dental and eye care about 300 children got benefitted. Legal service to a child has been given, helped a child for taking birth certificate at the VAO office, intervened 19 numbers of begging children for reformation. However begging cases are continuing in the district because mostly they are coming from other states & districts. Raksha Bandhan was celebrated for the first time at the Collectorate where the Collector, SP, PRO and officials like DRO, DSW, DCPO, NCLP, ICDS, School children and Childline staff participated.



ARCOD Childline conducted training to Child Welfare Officers (CWO- Police department) with the support of free legal aid. In this training 2 Judges participated and taken training on the topic of Juvenile Justice Act and child rights. The Childline Advisory Board meeting was conducted in November 2014 under the chairmanship of the District Collector Mr. T. P. Rajesh. The collector instructed the District Social Welfare Officer to mobilize resources from various departments for awareness materials for Childline 1098. During the year, 327 awareness programs were conducted in schools, villages and other places.

Services provided at a glance:

Category	No of cases
Medical	26
Missing child	8
School enrollment	21
Emotional Support and Guidance	179
Protection from Abuse	104
Referral to services	25
Shelter	24
Sponsorship	67
Total	454

Childline India Foundation, Mumbai supports the project.

Children of Krishnagiri - HIV infected and affected Children in focus:



ARCOD In the beginning of 2014 felt the need for more support to HIV infected and affected children and studied it carefully before initiating any new interventions. From the basic assessment the children were given nutritional supplement to improve health since 2010. In addition to 175 such children already identified, 151 such more Children were newly identified during the year. Out of 232 infected children 167 were referred to St. Johns Hospital, Bangalore for general health checkup. 7 of

those children had critical illness and were treated on emergency basis and brought back with improved health conditions. It was during this process a realization came that some of these children needed a very close follow-up and home care. Due to the poor Socio-economic condition it became difficult for some of them to have this home based care in their own homes. After giving serious thought and discussing with various stake holders particularly the families of these children it was decided to start a “Transit facility” in Krishnagiri to provide temporary care for children in critical need. 10 such children have used this facility thus far comprising of 6 girls and 4 boys. Sufficient care was taken to ensure safety and security of girls and boys independently.



The infected children who needed utmost medical care were brought to the facility and have been sent back to their families after giving them medical care. Thus it was consciously decided that this facility would only provide care and support in need and ensure children getting support from their own homes later. One boy and a girl were re admitted into class 8 after the long treatment. 3 other infected children have been receiving support from ART centre Salem for 2nd line ART. Regular medical checkup and treatment has been given for TB for three children. Another child with a tumor in the neck has been done the surgery and doing well.

The Deepavalli was celebrated at Krishnagiri; nearly 150 infected and affected children participated and enjoyed the whole day with the ARCOD team. During the celebration, an Orchestra by blind

school children was organized. The children received gift packages with TITAN watch, crackers and sweet box.

ARCOD – KANGAYAM PROJECT

In Kangeyam, ARCOD has been extending services for micro credit covering 10 villages. During the year, loans were given for purposes like Petty shop, Agriculture, Cow & Sheep rearing, Snacks & Vegetables selling, Tailoring, Handloom, Workshop, Cloth selling and Education. 27.90 lakhs of rupees was extended from ARCOD as loan for economic development. Side by side ARCOD has been empowering the women by concentrating on social issues affecting them. ARCOD continued to facilitate the function of “Surabi Women Federation”. The women SHGs were also linked to banks for credit linkages. During the year, an amount of Rs. 11.85 lakhs disbursed by IOB and HDFC banks to 7 groups.

Targeted Intervention (TI)



Issues of Social Protection for Sex Workers and Trans Genders at Krishnagiri is being addressed, facilitation for procuring TGs Gender Identity Card, Aravani welfare care and Issue of free land patta and voter ID, ration card and opening bank account are in progress. Community events were conducted in Uthangarai GH, Mathur GH, Veppanapalli GH & Kaveripattinam where

various talents of the key population (Sex Workers) were exhibited. Peer educators were trained along with TANSACS – TSU.

Advocacy programmes were conducted with various Stakeholders like Health Care Providers, Police, Lawyers, NGOs, Positive Network, Jamath Leaders, ICTC / STI / ART Counsellors, Lab Technicians, Pimps, Broker, Madams and Auto drivers in order to find solutions to various problems faced by the key population. With the support of REACH from Chennai awareness programmes were held to



address TB disease related concerns. Social marketing campaigns for promotion female condoms were held with the support of TASACS. World Aids Day programme conducted by ARCOD involving various walks of people and created awareness on HIV / AIDS Prevention. To internalize the project better among Staffs & Peer Educators training was conducted. This brought more clarity among the programme staff. Peer educators and Targeted Intervention staff were pleased to join the retreat programme organized by ARCOD.

Estate Workers Welfare Program

ARCOD has been coordinating with the Fair Trade Labeling Organization (FLO) since the year 2000. FLO is based in Germany and it is a global certification organization working to secure a better deal for producers and workers by setting up international standards for fair trade certifications.

The following companies / estates were associated with ARCOD in the year 2014 - 15

- The United Nilgiri Tea Company Ltd – Chamraj & Korakundah Estates
- Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation – Mudis Group, Dunsandle Group and Singampatti Group of Estates
- Stanes Amalgamated Estates Ltd – Burnside Estate, Kotada & Welbeck Estates
- The Coonoor Tea Estate Company Ltd – Parkside Estate
- Parry Agro Industries Ltd – Parry Agro Estate
- Poabs Organic Estates
- Thiashola Plantations Private Ltd

The following activities were carried out in the year 2014 - 15.

- ▲ Providing Vaccination to Workers
- ▲ Assistance for Medical and emergency expenses
- ▲ Assistance for Income Generation Activities
- ▲ Providing LPG cylinder with stove to the workers' family
- ▲ Lunch containers and Sweaters to workers
- ▲ Housing Deposit Scheme
- ▲ Construction of Rest sheds for workers
- ▲ Retirement Benefits to Workers
- ▲ Assistance extended to the Children of workers
 - Educational Scholarship for Higher Studies
 - Construction of School Buildings
 - Computers and Furniture for School
 - School Uniforms and Note books
 - School Teachers Salary
 - Nutrition Food for School Children

Link Workers Scheme

The pattern of HIV infection in Sivagangai District is heterogeneous and concentrated in nature. On the basis of the evidence related to HIV prevalence and the extent of vulnerability to HIV, 125 villages identified as priority villages for coverage of HIV prevention and care services. The major mode of HIV transmission is through the sexual route, predominantly from unprotected sex with commercial partner. Injecting drug use is another mode of transmission which is being further compounded by unsafe sexual practices.

The Link Worker Scheme addressed the needs for prevention of HIV, support and care services at the rural level. This is implemented with a strong management and technical support structure from villages.

Activities carried out

Conducted Mapping and Identify Risk Villages

Social Mapping of the Villages

Built Rapport with the Community

Conducted Grassroots Level Needs Assessment

Identified groups and initiated HIV related discussions

Developed outreach plan for target population

Promoted Condoms / Lubricants

Established Linkages with service Providers and done follow up

Selected Volunteers and trained them

Formed Red Ribbon Clubs

Gift a Future – Supporting Children for Studying

Gift a future is an initiative of Altius Foundation, based at Chennai. The objective of the program is to provide financial support to poor children who are studying in private schools in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri Districts. In the year 2014-15, about 250 students were supported from 38 Schools. Financial support has been extended to the students to the extent of about Rs. 20 Lakhs by paying their term fees to the schools directly. 3 leadership and personality development sessions were organized for these children during the year.

Events

ARCOD celebrated its 27th Anniversary on 31.01.2015 at Rayakottai. The board members and staff team took part in the celebrations.

ARCOD Staff members had a trip to Hogenakkal and Ooty, various planned activities over there provided opportunity for better team building.



Board Meetings

2 Governing body meetings held to discuss the policy matters and one general body meeting held during the year.

Our Auditor

CA. M. Ezhil,
Ezhil & Raj, Chartered Accountants, Chennai

Our Board Members

- Mr. P. Chandrasekar, President - Chartered Accountant
- Mr. R. Balarishnan, Vice President - Whole Sale Pharmacist
- Mr. D.G. Venkatesan, Vice President - Pharmacist
- Mr. V.R. Keshavraj, Secretary - Professional Social Worker (Community Development)
- Ms. C.N. Prasanna kumara, Treasurer – Advocate, Child Sector Specialist
- Ms. T. Mythili, Governing Body Member - Entrepreneur
- Mr. S. Senthil Kumar, Governing Body Member - HR Consultant
- Ms. R. Christy Rajappa, General Body Member - Educationalist
- Ms. Shanthi Sivamurthi, General Body Member - Entrepreneur
- Mr. Balaji, General Body Member - Entrepreneur
- Mr. N. Nagarajan, General Body Member – Teacher (Retd)

Our Gratitude to our Donors

Institutional Donors

1. Fair Trade Labelling Organization, Germany
2. Aide et Action, France
3. Altius Foundation, Chennai
4. UNICEF, Chennai
5. TANSACS, Chennai
6. Childline India Foundation, Mumbai
7. India Literacy Project, USA

Individual Donors

Mr. K. G. Murali, Bangalore

Mr. Srikanth Chandrasekaran, Chennai

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Mr. G. Gopal, Chennai

Mr. Baskar Subramaniam, Bangalore

Mr. Suresh Narayan, Chennai

Mr. Srinivasan, Chennai

Mr. Saranath Narasimman & Ms. Architha Subramaniam

Mr. Srikrishna, Bangalore

The list of individual donors goes on and on....

And finally we thank all our other friends and well - wishers of ARCOD

01.09.2015

Rayakottai

**(V.R. Keshavraj)
Executive Director**