

Annual Report

2007 - 2008

CENTRE FOR TRIBALS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TRUST



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Executive Director's Message



The year 2007-2008 is another milestone in the history of Centre for Tribals and Rural Development Trust (CTRD). A progressive and successful year is visualised for the CTRD, beneficiaries and stakeholders. CTRD succeeded in many fronts of its project activities, series of fruitful services provided to the underprivileged and marginalized rural and tribal poor. This Annual Report serves as a medium where we could share our experiences, success stories, learning, achievements and impact with a wider community, stakeholders and well-wishers. We count this is as an yet another opportunity to increase your involvement in the initiatives of CTRD by better understanding CTRD as an organization and contributing your share in materializing the long cherished vision of CTRD.

As we spend two decade of service in the development field, the year 2007-2008 was focused on consolidating our experience, strengthening the project activities and initiating the process to prepare a long term strategic plan for CTRD and its projects/ programmes. During the process of consolidation high priority is given to tribal ITDP which has been implemented in 56 hamlets in Pandalur taluk for the past 10 years. This credit goes to AWO- International, Germany, and the donor who has been supporting this project with their financial and technical support. A new dimension to this project has been identified during this year and the detailed futuristic long term plan is yet to be prepared. Our heart full Thanks to AWO-International, Germany, who is supporting us since 1994 to the cause and till date they continue the support to the tribal projects.

Our heartiest thanks go to the Sight savers International (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind) who has been supporting to CTRD since 2005 for the Community Eye Health Project - provide complete and full-fledged eye care to the people and provide comprehensive eye and also provides rehabilitation and educational services to the Visually Impaired people. The project has been successfully implemented in the entire Gudalur block covering a population of 2.23 laces.

I take this opportunity to thank all our donors, Government department Officers and staff, stakeholders, Volunteers, well wishers, the community members, board member and those who some way or other contributed towards the effective implementation of various projects / programmes and acknowledge, appreciate their interest and support to the growth of CTRD and I look forward their continued support in future years for better service to the people in the region. And I am very much pleased to submitting this report to wider audience for reflection and support.

RS. RANGANATHEN
Managing Trustee/ Executive Director

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

GENEISIS:

The socio-economic conditions of the tribal communities in the Gudalur Block, when the CTRD started in the area, were extremely deplorable. There are several reasons, which cause their miserable life, their earnings are very low. Most of the tribal families don't have permanent work; they engaged as seasonal workers in the tea, coffee and banana gardens. Another occupation is cutting fuel wood trees and selling for very meagre price or one time food in the local tea shops. The tribal families are in acute poverty they do not even get one decent meal a day and they do not have proper cloth to protect them from rain and cold. Mr. RS. Ranganathan, who is a native of this region from poor family, realized the situation worked out strategies to overcome this situation.

To assist the tribal communities by providing basic amenities and establish a comfortable sustainable living conditions Mr. RS. Ranganathan with his well-wishers and with some local tribal community leaders established "**Centre for Tribal and Rural Development Trust (CTRD)**" in the year 1988 a Voluntary Organization working with the objective of to raise the socio-economic conditions of the tribal community by helping them to overcome the grip of poverty and ignorance.

CTRD is a voluntary organization. The organisation is registered under the Indian Trust Act in Tamil Nadu state. It currently works on the projects/ programmes are aiming to promote and strengthen livelihoods, welfare and development of the poor tribal and other local communities in Gudalur Block of the Nilgris. This involves organizing them, enhancing their capabilities, introducing ways to improve their incomes and linking them to banks, markets and other health, welfare and economic services. An experienced professional motivated teams based in the field use their skills and knowledge to remove poverty by working directly with the communities.

2. PHILOSOPHY

THE VISION

The CTRD envisions

"Empowered and self-sufficient tribal communities with improved the living conditions without damaging their cultural and environmental identity"

THE MISSION

"Promotion livelihoods for improved standard of living of the tribal families and other local communities through establishing self-reliant and self-sufficient with their full participation and cooperation".

3. ORGANISATION'S STRATEGY

CTRD addresses the livelihoods issues and works on to the factors and forces affecting the lives of poor communities. To reduce the vulnerability of the poor families, powerful and focused interventions are made to break the cycle of poverty. To improve the self-image of the poor families efforts are made to control over resources of livelihoods.

CTRD feels that the intervention in promotion of livelihood is tangible and the impacts are significant. Thus the CTRD concretes in sustainable livelihood projects after analyzing the local environment in a scientific/rational way and make the intervention relevant through action, reflection and learning process.

CTRD is working for sustainable development of the tribes through its integrated tribal development programme (ITDP) implementing activities on promotion of health status, providing education to the tribal children, economic activities to improve their standard of living, community development and women development etc.

4. PROGRAMMES / ACTIVITIES 2007 – 2008

A decade of service to the tribal communities in the Nilgris District particularly in the Gudalur block the CTRD has achieved a lot in line with its mission. The credibility of the CTRD has gone up. The overall achievement in improving the socio-economic status of the local tribal community is remarkable and many families leading a comfortable and peaceful life. The brief summary of various project activities CTRD has been carried out in the year 2007 – 2008 are given below;

INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Integrated Tribal Development Programme is one of the key programmes of CTRD which has been implemented since from the inception of CTRD. The Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) has been implemented and it has been a successful programme with the support of AWO International, Germany. The project has been implemented in 61 tribal hamlets in Pandalur Taluk of the Nilgiri district. The project succeeded in mainstreaming the tribal communities, capacity building of the tribal groups.

Tribal Health Programme

To address the basic health problems of the tribal people CTRD initiated a comprehensive health care project. During the year 2007 – 2008 CTRD carried out number of health activities in the following are the key health care activities taken up during the year.

- General health Screening Camps
- Health Awareness Programme.
- Health Volunteers Motivation Programme
- Tribal Health Insurance Scheme
- Sickle Cell Anaemia
- Polio Vaccination
- Registration of birth and death
- Referral to other Hospitals

Achievements

Achieved Activities	Beneficiaries
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General health Screening Camps	5220
Health awareness programme	30
Health volunteers motivation programme	24
Tribal health insurance scheme	28
Sickle cell anaemia	1625
Polio vaccination	148
Registration of birth and death	Birth - 52 Death - 36

Education project

The poor economic conditions of these tribal people have invariably resulted in their inability to send their children to schools. The school dropouts are very high. The literacy level in the tribal community is very low. To promote the educational status of the tribal community and the children the CTRD Trust runs the following Projects;

- 16 Evening Coaching centre covering 278 students.
- 8 Non Formal Education Centres covering 98 children's
- Distribution of Educational aid and materials

Achievements

Achieved Activities	Number of		
	Prog.	Beneficiaries	
Non Formal Education Centres	8	98	
Education Awareness Program	5	274	
Parents Meeting	15	370	
Painting Camp	8	318	
Evening School Programme	16	278	
Distribution of Educational aid and	Note	Bag	Uniform

materials	83	248	420
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CTRD Trust conducted Bridge school program at CTRD Campus to benefit tribal drop out children. The Children provided extra curriculum activities such as Computer training, Tailoring courses. The Children are enrolled in the Government school according to their standard studied in the bridge school. The Children are stayed in the Hostel at CTRD campus and they provided food, Uniform, Education materials, Health Services.

Community Development Programme:

Community organisation is the main part of the ITDP programme. To ensure their full participation and cooperation the village development programmes and builds their capacity to handle their developmental projects this programme

provides leadership training, awareness programmes, motivation camps, youth welfare training, fundamental rights, protection civil rights, leadership qualities knowing about the Government schemes and availing them etc.

Achievements

Amenities under construction	No	Total cost in Rs.
Group Houses	95	38,00,000
Well and Tape	14+2	18,08,000
Electrification	701	17,52,500
Free TV	577	28,85,000
Registration in District Employment office	52	-

4. 4 Income Generation

One of the major objectives of CTRD is to bring self-sufficiency among the tribal families through active participation and taking up economic activities for improved economic status of the tribal families.

Income Generation for the Tribal Beneficiaries

Agriculture	No. of village	Number of
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Products	Covered	Beneficiaries
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Tea	32	162 Families
Pepper	36	173 Families
Goat rearing	25	175 families
Milch Animal	3	5 families
Total		

Vocational Training

The Tribal youth provided bamboo craft –

10 youth beneficiaries, Tailoring Training for 100 women SHG members (Tribal & Non Tribal) and Driving Training 10 tribal youth with driving license for four wheelers.

Model Village:

The CTRD Trust four houses with Toilet facilities for the tribal beneficiaries at Poothemcandy Tribal village to create the tribal model house idea to other tribal people and to the Government to take up the same program to other villages with idea and design by the tribal community according to their needs.

COMMUNITY EYE HEALTH PROJECT (CEH)

The Community Eye Health Project is being implemented since March 2005 with the support from Sight Savers International (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind) in Gudalur. The project covers entire block of Gudalur – with a population of 2.23 lakhs (according to 2001 census). The main aim of the project is to provide complete and full-fledged eye care to the people and provide comprehensive eye check up and also provide rehabilitation and educational services to the people.

With the objective of bringing about comprehensive eye health programme, the Sight Savers International, Mumbai supporting this project which has been implemented in Gudalur block of the Nilgiri district. The project covers wider activities like awareness creation, capacity building, training for various stakeholders, Community eye screening, preventive and curative measures,

community based rehabilitation for visually impaired people and establishing linkages with the mainstream.

- Community Eye Screening Camp
- Awareness generations
- Eye care training programmes
- Rehabilitation for Visually Impaired
- Integrated Education for VI Children

Achievements

Achieved Activities	Programme	Beneficiaries
Community Eye Screening Camps	97	13 456
School Screening Programme	77	18 038
Awareness Programme	21	1860
Eye Care Training Programme	20	598
Rehabilitation for Visually impaired	-	71
Integrated Education for VI	-	37

ADI Net work

CTRD Trust is one of the partner organisation of Adivasi Development Initiative promoted by PWDS – DATA, Madurai through a collective form of cooperation to implement development activities and take up tribal issues in Gudalur Block, The Nilgiri District. With support of ADI CTRD implemented awareness about

the Health & Government Program, Health Screening camp, Providing materials for school students, facilitating to apply for community and Income certificate, providing Training on Tea cultivation, Mushroom and Organic farming. Formation of women group 4 and 2 Village development committee taken place and the savings and internal lending is in good progress.

CTRD Trust is one of the member organisations with Nilgiris NGO Network and actively participated to take the local issues and coordinate the Government projects and programmes jointly with NNN.

On behalf of CTRD Trust the Managing Trustee Mr.RS. Ranganathen Selected one of the committee member in Tamil Nadu Tribal Advisory council constituted by Government of Tamil Nadu.

HIV / AIDS - ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

CTRD also concentrate on promotion of good health of the tribal communities. The majority of the people in the area are affected by Sickle Cell Anaemia. And also provides AIDS/HIV Awareness and in general health with the support from the TNVHA / EJLF/CA. Basic health training to the local health volunteers (village women).

The Nilgiris is one important, beautiful hill area tourist places in Tamilnadu. Every year thousands of people are flooding in to Nilgiris. The Place is more vulnerable for HIV /AIDS. There are about 369 cases have been identified in the district.

In our service villages alone we have identified 15 HIV + Victims. With the objective of Control and prevention of HIV /AIDS and remove the stigma and discrimination attached to HIV / AIDS victims the Centre for Tribal and Rural Development Trust has implemented the project "Action for the prevention of stigma and discrimination".

The purpose of this project is creating awareness among the people of Pandalur taluk of the Nilgiri district and among the general public. The project is supported by Tamilnadu Voluntary Health Association -TNVHA, Chennai. Presently the project is implemented in Pandalur Taluk of the Nilgiri District.

Care and support:

HIV positive person has the chance to lead a normal life. Providing HIV /AIDS patients with an emotionally stable, happy and supportive environment goes a long way in keeping them healthy. Initially, due to the stigma and ignorance, many lost their livelihood. The fear psychosis built around the infection resulted in even hospitals refusing to admit or treat HIV positive people. Many patients would lose their will to live or live in abandonment. To simply provide moral and emotional support for HIV/AIDS patients also exploring 'home care' options. It has found that family counselling helps HIV positive persons to live at home, with the support of their families. Caring for HIV/AIDS patients involves an approach that must minister to their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs. The role CTRD is providing care and support at this crucial. Also providing many facilities for would have a meditation room, library, recreation room, vocational training, sports and games facilities.

Stigma as strong as this is still taking away the dignity of people living with HIV and AIDS, especially children.

The Main objectives of the projects are:

- ❖ Creating AIDS awareness among the people
- ❖ To providing family counselling for HIV positive person's family to live at home, with the support of their families.
- ❖ To create alertness to patients lead a fulfilled life, free from discrimination.
- ❖ To aims at improving the quality of care for these persons and provide moral and emotional support.

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

The CTRD also implement the women development project in the non-tribal areas in association with the Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation. There are 712 Women Group and 8526 women are mobilised and organised into 712 women SHGs (Tribal & Non Tribal Groups). Panchayat Level Federations of SHGs are also been formed in the Gudalur taluk. A series of trainings have been organised for the SHGs and federation as per the norms and guidelines of TWDC. All the SHGs are being linked with the banks to initiate the economic activities in the groups.

HUMANITARIAN PROJECT - FRENCH MEDICAL

CTRD Trust having a close network with France Medical University in France. The university students come to CTRD every year to work with CTRD and its projects and they also learn the local tribal culture and the life style of the people.

These medical groups also doing volunteering service by collecting money from the general public, companies in France and French Government . This Year French Medical Group Supported Maching grant for tribal Group House Construction collaboration with HADP at Pannikolly & Perungarai Hamlet. Toilet and school renovation work at CTRD Campus and purchase of library book.

RURAL FOREST RESEARCH

CTRD Trust Collaborated with Popular Project of National Centre for Scientific Research of France to carry research on Rural Forest in Virajpet Taluk of Coorg District,Karnataka, Manathavadi & Batheri Taluk of Kerala and Gudalur & Pandalur Taluk of Tamil Nadu.

VISITORS OF CTRD 2007-08

- Honourable Minister for ADI Dravidar Tribal Welfare, Govt of Tamil Nadu
 - Director of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu
 - Mr. Shrinivas Swant , Area Representative , Sight Sasvers International, Mumbai
 - Dr.Jakka Parthasarathy, Director, Tribal Research Centre
 - Project Officer, Mahalir Thittam, Udhagai
 - District Manager, Thadco, Udhagai
 - District Officer, ADI Dravida and Tribal Welfare Department, Udhagai
 - Revenue Divisional Officer, Gudalur
 - Block Development officer, Gudalur
 - Program Officers, DATA, Madhurai
 - Senior Liason Officer, Coffee Board
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