VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (VRDP)

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FROM THE DIRECTOR’s DESK

Starting with greetings, after a yearful service I am writing to you our projects are to improving the quality of life of the targeted communities and to bring about social changes in the societies have all gone in unhindered and as planned out to be. Policy interventions cross cutting issues and several other setbacks notwithstanding; VRDP is in relentless pursuit with zeal and vigor to achieve the goal of an egalitarian society of equals. For VRDP, women empowerment and development is the key and focus for community development at large.

VRDP is striving hard with determination and dedications to reach out to these communities to enable them find ways to improve their quality of lives. Financial constraints notwithstanding, VRDP is surging ahead with programmes that would take us to the goal. Our achievements and accomplishments are many. Expectations from us are always increasing. While taking this opportunity to thank the staff and the members of the society for their cooperation and achievements, I request all of them to gear up with more determination for the challenges ahead.

I also take this opportunity to thank our donor partners, Government departments, the philanthropic minded who could donate whatever was possible and the advisors for their support in VRDP’s endeavours and efforts.

Thanking you

Yours Sincerely

A.Renganathan

Director
VRDP is a team long time Associates in Social action for more than one and a half decade. Mr A. Renganathan, a former schoolteacher, whose update of development is excellent, founded VRDP as a society in Salem district in 1984. It was duly registered under the State and Central Act for its legal entity with Reg. No. 100/84 dated 4.7.1984. It has also been registered with the Ministry of Home affairs under the FCR Act to receive foreign contribution with No. 076000057 dated 8.12.93. It has also registered with the Income Tax Department under section 12A, 80G and has obtained PAN AADFV6113G. The purpose of the organization is to empower the rural poor, especially the most exploited and oppressed lots of the Tribal, Dalit and Women.

Vision

VRDP strives for an egalitarian society where human beings live in unity without discrimination of caste, religion, race, sex and language and share all natural resources equitably for achieving dignity in life and prosperity for generations.

Mission

The mission of VRDP centers around strategic process to facilitate socially economically, educationally, culturally and politically disadvantaged people with special concern towards Dalit, tribal, and all women exploited both in the family and in the society to make them empowered through concrete socio economic educational and political initiatives.

Main objectives of the Organization

- To Generate awareness among rural poor about rights and entitlements and empower them through awareness and organization.

- To preserve and Conserve the nature resource and livelihood and create environment awareness among the public mass.

- To eliminate the inhuman practice of Bonded and child Labour system, ensure the rights to the differently abled person particularly children.
➢ To generate awareness among women and Tribal; organize them as a group Federation and as a movement towards empowerment, self-reliance with gender justice.

➢ To eliminate female infanticide – feticide, sex selective abortion and neglect of girl children

➢ To Generate awareness about HIV/AIDS menace and effective intervention for its prevention and control

➢ To respond for the disaster and involve in relief rehabilitation and reconstruction and generate awareness on disaster preparedness and mitigation process among community.

➢ To Generate awareness among rural poor about rights and entitlements and empower them through awareness and organization

➢ To preserve and Conserve the nature resource and livelihood and create environment awareness among the public mass.

➢ To eliminate the inhuman practice of Bonded and child Labour system, ensure the rights to the differently abled person particularly children.

Main Strategies

The strategy pursued by VRDP is primarily to build and strengthen people’s organizations to people’s movement and followed by campaign, advocacy and lobbying.

Areas of Expertise

Project Planning, Project implementation, Capacity building of NGO’s/CBO’s, Research, Publication

VRDP-Annual Report 2013-2014
Programs of VRDP

Link Worker Scheme

Introduction about Link Worker Scheme

VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (VRDP) is a team long time Associates in Social action for more than one and a half decade. Mr. A. Renganathan, a former schoolteacher, whose update of development is excellent, founded VRDP as a society in Salem district in 1984. It was duly registered under the State and Central Act for its legal entity. The purpose of the organization is to empower the rural poor, especially the most exploited and oppressed lots of the Tribal, Dalit and Women,

VRDP had been implementing Link worker scheme in Salem District with the support of VHS, National AIDS Control program (NACO) and Tamilnadu State AIDS Control society (TNSACS). The main focus of this intervention is HIV prevention, care and support and treatment, and specifically to Reach out to HRGs and vulnerable men and women in rural areas with information, knowledge, skills on STI/HIV prevention and risk reduction

The link worker scheme will be useful to reach out to the rural population with the focus among the high risk population such as youth, women etc. The program will cover 105 most vulnerable villages through a mapping exercise

Objectives of The Link Worker Scheme

LWS scheme will make an effort to build a community-centered model for rural areas. This will include an outreach strategy to address the HIV prevention, care and support and treatment requirements in Salem districts. The specific objective of the scheme includes: Reach out to HRGs and vulnerable men and women in rural areas with information, knowledge, skills on STI/HIV prevention and risk reduction.

This entails: Increasing the availability and use of condoms among HRGs and other vulnerable men and women. Establishing referral and follow-up linkages for various services
including treatment for STIs, testing and treatment for TB, ICTC/PPTCT services, HIV care and support services including ART.

Creating an enabling environment for PLHA and their families, reducing stigma and discrimination against them through interactions with existing community structures/groups, e.g. Village Health Committees (VHC), Self Help Groups (SHG) and Panchayati Raj Institutes (PRI). The population groups that are at-risk and vulnerable to HIV infection as well as persons living with HIV/AIDS include

**LWS Contribution to Villages and District**

- Link workers Scheme Actively implanting the Prevention and Care program in 105 villages of Salem district
- 40 trained Link workers keenly Addressing the Health need of its community members
- 2054 Core population and 16785 Vulnerable population Bridge population in the villages were provided with HIV prevention messages
- 206 Permanent Condom Depots were established and 8,10,593 condoms were distributed to the core and Vulnerable community
- 12853 HRG and Vulnerable population were motivated for ICTC test and now, they all knew their status.
- 105 Village Health Committees formed by Link workers Scheme were contributing for HIV free village
- 173 RRC clubs were formed and more than 1000 male and female activist engaged in HIV prevention initiatives
- 216 Information Centers were established in 105 villages catering as “knowledge center” for village youth
- 3237 Volunteers trained so far giving prevention messages and other HIV related services round the clock
## Key Achievements

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**MAJOR EVENTS**

**HIV awareness to the unreached community:**

As part of the intensive intervention to prevent HIV among the tribal community VRDP and DAPCU jointly organized awareness campaign in all the tribal villages in Salem. It was an important attempt VRDP to educate the tribal men and women about STI/HIV/AIDS and to protect the community from the clutches of the HIV. PRI members, VHN, Anganwadi, RRC members and women in SHG participated and brought village level challenges and issues pertaining to their villages. During the meetings the community members derived Road maps to address the HIV/AIDS related issues in their villages.

Mr.Selvam, District Program Manager-DAPCU-Salem and Mr.Vimalanathan, DRP-P, Mr.Prasanna DRP-T facilitated the trainings programs. All together 5 programs done in Yearcaud and Arunoothumalai hills, Salem District. Apart from this a sensitization program for state level tribal leaders on 26th Feb’2014 in VRDP. Tribal leaders from 17 districts participated in the training program.

**Government Welfare Schemes to Core groups**

Having a great concern towards the betterment of People living with HIV and other core groups, VRDP initiated a process to mobilize all government schemes and to provide to the needy. Applications from the PLHIV received for various needs like free bus pass, OAP and other welfare schemes
and submitted to DAPCU. 96 applications for various needs scrutinized and for the first phase 26 beneficiaries were provided the bus pass by the Salem ART Medical officer Dr. Arunachalam. The remaining applications were followed with due sincere to make it possible in the near future.

**HIV TB Coordination efforts**

VRDP with the support of District TB unit and AKSHAYA foundation organized a HIV TB coordination meeting in VRDP on 27th Feb’2014. Dr. Ganeshkumar, Deputy Director TB and Mr. Arul District Coordinator, AKSHAYA foundation participated and facilitated the training program. As the TB become a great concern to the HIV prevention and care and support it is very necessary to work to gather to address the HIV/TB issues in the ground level. Coordination among Service providers, NGOs and people from community will ensure the effective prevention of TB among HIV and will help to identify HIV from TB cases. This multipronged approach will reach more no of TB patients in the target area.

**World AIDS Day 2013**

WORLD AIDS DAY 2013 program were observed by VRDP with due diligence to show that the HIV free World is very near. VRDP and DAPCU jointly organized exhibition and IEC distribution campaign on 27th Dec’13 the eve of World AIDS Day 2013. Mr. Selvam, District Program Manager, DAPCU –Salem inaugurated the Exhibition and IEC campaign. Hasthampatty roundana the main
junctio ns in Salem were become a Hot spot to pickup HIV awareness messages from Link workers Supervisors and ICTC counselors.

**VRDP honored for its contribution in HIV prevention efforts**

During World AIDS Day 2013 program VRDP have been awarded for its commemorative contribution in HIV prevention by the District collector. It was a great moment were the Salem Collector Mr.Maharabhusanam awarded Best NGO award to VRDP. On behalf of VRDP Mr.Vimalanathan, DRP-P received the memento apart from this Best link worker award also given to Ms.Cauvery and Mr.Babu.

**Refresher training for Link Workers**

In order to provide skills of developing an outreach plan based on geographic and population

Based micro plans the link workers have been provided two refresher training. On 23rd & 24th Aug’14 VRDP have conducted two days residential refresher training at Hotel Star Hill resorts, yercaud. 40 Link workers 7 Supervisors participated in the training program. Resource person from various Departments invited for the training program. Mr.Selvam DPM, DAPCU Salem, Mr.Jagadheesraja, ART Counsellor, Ms.Kavitha ICTC counselor and MR.Vimalanathan DRP-P, Mr.Prasanna DRP-T facilitated the training programs. Mr.Renganathan, Director-VRDP was invited as special invitee for the training program.
**Inter governmental Coordination Meeting**

As part of inter governmental coordination VRDP have participated in all Government departmental coordination meeting conducted by DAPCU. Mr. Maharabhusnam, IAS, Salem collector preside over the function and all Department Head were presented about the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care activities going on in Salem District. The activities of Link workers Scheme were presented by Mr. Vimalanathan, DRP-P, Link Workers Scheme and officials were agreed to extend all the support to the Link workers Scheme.

**Care and Support for OVC Children**

With the support of Association of Salem VRDP is supporting the 10 OVC children both economically and socially. 6 Male children and 4 Girl children continuously supported with groceries and other income generation program. The whole families were supported through Income generation program where 5 families supported for goat raring. Through this program the educational need of the children also addressed by paying School fees and providing educational materials. At the outset the children Health have improved a lot and their education were ensured by VRDP.
**In House Training for Link Workers**

VRDP have organized various in house training programs to the Link workers on Major themes like STI/HIV/AIDS prevention, Care & Support concepts, Referral Linkages, Advocacy and Lobby and Networking. Apart from this the community structures like RRC, Volunteers and SHG were also trained in various concepts like the Roles and responsibilities of community structures in Disease prevention and Local resource mobilization and Referral linkages. More than 1000 volunteers and 173 RRC group members were trained and engaged in HIV prevention activities. VRDP also trained the service providers in the village level to ensure smooth coordination among the community and service providers.
Campaign for Self Rule and Land Rights of Tribal Communities

Strengthening of Tribal communities and their organizations in Tamil Nadu to demand for the implementation of the provisions of 5th schedule for Tribal Self Rule and provide forest lands according to the Forest (Land Rights) Act 2006

The TAFSC partner organizations (20 NGOs and 14 tribal associations) have spread the knowledge of the Forest Rights Act 2006 in about 320 villages to a population of 70,000 in 17 districts of Tamil Nadu and followed the legal guidelines (rules) in submitting land claim petitions.

Implementation of 5th Schedule / self rule in Tamil Nadu

Advocacy on the Central Government’s direction to implement 5th schedule in Tamil Nadu was taken up with the Director of Tribal Welfare, Tamil Nadu and the Secretary to the Adi Dravida Welfare Department with the signature of 100s of tribal people in the month of July 2013. The bureaucrats have assured that they will take the matter to the attention of the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister. The petition signed by the tribal people has been submitted to the Chief Minister. The office bearers of TAAK, Leaders of TAFSC and Convenor Mr. A. Renganathan were in the lobby team. The Top Bureaucrats appreciated the tribal leaders for campaigning for a right cause. They also said that this was the first group that took up the campaign for 5th schedule. The team members presented the alternate plan for reorganizing the tribal panchayats on the basis of the Tribal Population.

State level work shop on Tribal livelihood

A one day workshop on Tribal Livelihood was organized in Chennai 7 Oct 2013. Mr ANGU RAC, IAS Managing, Director of TRIFED which is providing training and market facilities for tribal products, Dr. Ramanathan, Regional Manager of TRIFED, Bangalore and Mr, Panchaksharam, of South India Producers Association, Chennai were key resource persons. TRIFED accepted to give Bee keeping training to 100 tribals in Tamil nadu
**Advocacy & Lobby with State Government**

Petition has been submitted to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in the name of TAFSC for revoking the GO No.1168 which deprives the tribal communities from acquiring waste land for their economic development. It has been acknowledged by the Tamil Nadu Government and assured that it will be taken into consideration.

**Net working and Alliance Building**

South Zone Tribal Alliance meeting was conducted for tribal leaders belonging to South India on Aug 9th, 2013, this gave the tribal leaders a confidence to achieve 5th schedule in Tamil Nadu. The Networking and alliance building strengthened the campaign activities undertaken by TAFSC in Tamil Nadu. The Tribes from across all the districts of Tamil Nadu developed a sense of solidarity to demand their political right.

**International indigenous day**

Indigenous Day Celebration and Training on 9th August at Salem. National Tribal Leaders like Mr. Roy David, Convenor of National Adivasi Alliance, Mr. J.P. Raju, Secretary of National Adivasi Andolan, Mr. Siva Santhakumar, Convenor of CAFAT, Mr. A. Renganathan, Convenor of TAFSC, Mr. Venkatesan, President of TAAK, Mr.Gunasekaran Secretary of TAAK inspired the tribal leaders and revived their spirit.

**Climate Change Awareness Seminar**

A state level seminar on Climate Change was conducted at Martha Hall, Salem on, in which 225 people mostly of tribal people participated. The District Forest Officer of Salem Division participated. 200 Mango Seedlings were given to tribal women. TAFSC & TAAK leaders and NGO heads implementing TAFSC project did also participate in the seminar. The UNFCCC participant Mr. Renganathan was the chief Resouce Person.
Training to NGO Heads and staff

Three day training was conducted for TAFSC implementing NGO heads at Megamalai in Theni District from 22 to 24, October 2013. 30 persons participated in the training in the forest environment. In addition to living experience in the forest, the participants also visited the tribal communities living in forest settlements. 5th schedule campaign was taken up in the project areas. The NGO leaders had hands on experience in the forest settlement area with minimum facilities. New strategies were evolved in campaigning for the 5th schedule.

Partners Experience Sharing and Review Meeting

2 meetings were held for the TAFSC partners on 1st Oct. 2013 and- 5th Jan. 2014. 10 NGO leaders and 3 tribal leaders attended the meeting. The session helped the partners to understand the works of each partner and learn from their experience. The time gaps were rectified. The review meeting was held in Chennai and Salem once in 6 months. The third meeting held in the month of March 2014 was held as annual review. The partners planned their next year activities especially the state level activities in the wake of a new Government in India. The review meeting was held in Chennai and Salem once in 6 months. The third meeting held in the month of March 2014 was held as annual review. The partners planned their next year activities especially the state level activities in the wake of a new Government in India

Tribal Research and Resource Centre

Amendment rules 2012 of Forest right act has been translated in Tamil by TRRC and circulated to the TAFSC partners and Tribal associations.

Collective action

As collective action, an election demand petition was released in 15 districts. Media gave good publicity. Some of the political leaders have assured that they will raise this issue in the appropriate government forum.

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**India Literacy Program**

The Indian Literacy Project supported by Indian Citizens in US California started on October 2013 to improve the quality of education in schools, anganwadis, and to reduce the school dropouts in Jawadhu hills Thiruvannamalai District. ILP project covering 30 villages in five panchayat of jawadhu hills.

**Objectives**

- To increase the school and anganwadi enrolments
- To reduce the school dropouts in the villages
- To empower the SMC members regarding on their roles and responsibilities
- To advocacy and lobby with government officials, to improve the education status
- To give Capacity building to volunteers
- To give training to anganwadi workers, regarding on their roles and responsibilities

**Target groups**

![Bar chart showing the distribution of children by age and gender.]

*VRDP-Annual Report 2013-2014*
School visit to Enrolment

VRDP staff have done 78 visit covering 26 schools, during the visit the staff monitored the gaps in the enrolment system and taken various initiatives to increase the enrolment of children in Schools. If there is decrease in enrolments, the reason was found and strategies were formed to address the Gaps.

Monitoring of Anganwadi Centres

Every month each anganwadies were monitored by VRDP, starting from November 2013 onwards 150 visits were completed by covering 30 anganwadies. During the visits our staff members were monitored performance of every angawadies and anganwadi workers. It also motivated the anganwadi workers to perform in better ways, at the same time pre education status level also monitoring by the staff.

School Monitoring Committee meetings

VRDP have formed 26 School Monitoring Committee in 26 villages of Javadhu hills. The main objective of the SMC is to monitor the each and every schools to ensure quality of education to all children. So far VRDP have organized 130 SMC meeting covering five panchayats.

Volunteers Meeting

Every month once organizing the village level meetings for volunteer in 30 villages in different days, this was started on November 2013 onwards. Now 150 meeting were organized in five panchayats and nearly 1200 volunteer were participated. During the meeting motivate them to increase the school enrolment and reduce the drop outs.
Parents Meeting

5 Panchayats 30 villages 150 meetings and 1350 parents were participated in the Parents meeting organized by VRDP in last six months. During the meeting the parents were motivated to send children to schools and anganwadies and given awareness on various issues like health, education, sanitation and Protection of Environment. Our staff members went to villages and organize the meeting for community people. Then gave orientation regarding on importance of education, health, environment hygienic, anemia, low weight etc.

Right to Education Committee meeting

March onwards started this committee. This committee started in 30 villages in five target panchayats. In this committee members like ward members, uraan, naattan, SHG member, anganwadi helper, youths, children, volunteers, SMC members etc.

Village level Sensitization meeting

- Our staff members went to villages and organize the meeting for community people and gave orientation regarding on importance of education, health, environment etc. this meeting was happened in every month in 30 villages.
- This orientation has given to 550 community people both male and female
- At the same time meeting organized to the SMC members in 26 different villages. This is also happened in every month
- Our field staff visits the schools for school enrolments in 26 schools in a month
Capacity Building Programs

1. Capacity building to Anganwadi workers

Two days training has given to the Anganwadi members regarding on their roles and responsibilities. VRDP have invited Resource person – Mrs. Pushpa from CCRD, Chennai to facilitate the training. In this training there were (2x35=70) 70 members were participated. The participant participated from 30 anganwadi centers in different villages. The main points discussed in the training is Child rights as a human rights, What is a child right, Need as rights but ambition is not rights. The four types of rights like 1.right to life 2. Right to protection 3. Right to Development 4. Right to participation Child growth in different stages were discussed in the training.

2. Capacity Building to Volunteers

The resource person Mr. Renganathan director of VRDP- Salem

In this training there were 30 volunteers participated in a day. Three days 90 members were participated. During that training explained regarding on importance of education, health, sanitation, environment, reducing school dropouts and increasing school enrolment, child rights, human rights.

3. Training to Children Club Members

This training has given to the children on two days. In this training there were 47 students participated (3x47=141) during this training explained on child rights, human rights, education, health, environment, gender, equality etc. To form a children’s club and children paralamandram.
4. Training to SMC members

Mr. Thenpandian invited as a resource person. He is belongs to CCRD organization Chennai. In this training there were 30 SMC members were participated in two days. During this training explained below things such as SMC roles and responsibilities and SMC members’ roles and responsibilities in their villages.

5. Training to PRI Members

30 PRI instructors participated in the training. The participants participated from five panchayats. To motivated the PRI instructors regarding on school enrolment and anganwadi enrolments in their panchayats. To reducing school drop outs and child labour. To give more importance to the children in their panchayats.
**Special Program**

**Women Empowerment**

VRDP involved in Women Empowerment Programme in Kadayampatti, Ayyothiyapattinam and in Krishnagiri block in Salem Dt., Veppanapalli block of Krishnagiri Dt. Altogether 400 SHG with 7716 members micro credit and women rights related activities undergone under Kurinji Mahalir Iyakkam (KMI), women federation promoted by VRDP.

**International Women's day**

On 12th March 2014 VRDP Organized a Seminar on Women’s Day by having the theme of Women and Climate change. Ms. Rajathi, from AIDWA inaugurated the seminar and Mr. Ashokan and Mr. Parasuraman, Advocate delivered the inaugural address that how the women are going to be affected by Climate change in the near future. Mr. A. Reganathan, Director VRDP brifed that the women are more vulnerable and prone to the effects of Climate changes both biologically and socially.

**Meetings and Trainings**

In this year more than 12 meetings were conducted in each sangam to strengthen their independent function and to support in issue in the sangam and in community. More than 10 specific trainings on self sustainability of KMI, Capacity building of federation members, leadership qualities, group dynamics etc.
National Environmental Awareness Campaign

VRDP with the support of CP Ramasamy Aiyer foundation implemented Action and Awareness program in Arunoothumalai to create Environmental awareness. 200 Free tree saplings (Mango, Silver Oak and Tamarind) were given to the people of Arunoothumalai on behalf of VRDP and CPR foundation during the action program. They also sensitized to plant more trees in their villages, also encouraged to develop community forest in their area.

This has been very helpful for the NGO to address the needs of their people. More over it has got recognition among the people that NGO is regularly doing environmental programs for their people. While inviting the resource person for the program the NGO staff and the people could able to learn lots of new initiatives in the field of Environment. Apart from this NGOs are involving different stake holders like government officials and other NGOs and Expertise gives different perception for the NGO initiatives. It also help the NGO to competent enough in the field of environment. Finally even in the difficult time CP Ramasamy foundations grant to the NGOs will really motivate the NGO to undertake lots of new initiatives in the field of environment. We are very great full to for the opportunity provided by CP Ramasamy foundation.
Financial Status of VRDP

Funds received from Donors
2013-2014

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# Our Sincere Thanks to the Partners In Development

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