

### **Milestone - 39**

#### **Micro-credit: Concern for Trans-genders - 2002**



The Trans-genders also called Hijaras or Alis or Aravanis - is a community that calls us for our immediate care and concern. They are harassed and suffer humiliation and ridicule for no fault of theirs, but nature. They are a biological accident, the result of which is a human being in whom the soul and spirit of a woman is found trapped in a male body. They are sexually handicapped and they merely long for a female identity. These people suffer early rejection by their own parents and the other members of the family. And later they begin to suffer humiliation, discrimination and dehumanisation as they physically grow up by every segment

of the society. They cannot not have proper education and remain unemployed. Society thinks that aravanis cannot be employed. Therefore aravanis resort to living either by begging or by engaging in commercial sex. They live in-groups for safety and security reasons. They cannot or do not get any support or help from any of the service institutions.

We have taken up a pilot project by providing a small credit of Rs.5000 each to 5 persons who are recommended by the Tamilnadu Aravanigal Association with whom we are working now, to enable them to do small business.

One of the recipients of the loan, Ms. Priya says: "I studied Air Conditioning Course for two years in a College at Trichy and had to discontinue because my classmates and the teachers abused me. Later on I joined the community who are like me. I am now involved with the Association and with this loan money, I have now started a business of making a device that helps in facial beautification. I am also preparing herbal hair-oil. I am selling cosmetics. The sales are encouraging and I am happy."

### **Milestone - 40**

**Child Rights Awareness Programme:** Child Rights Awareness Programmes were conducted at Sadras and Kadambadi villages on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December 2002 for the children employed in stone cutting and sculpture work. Nearly 60 children participated along with their parents.

### **Milestone - 41**



**Tuition Centres:** The children of Fisher Folk Community at Royapuram and Tondiarpet and for the children in the slum at Pallikaranai, Chennai were given Education through our Tuition Centres.

### **Milestone - 42**

**Care and Share Programme - Construction of Children Home**

We have built a Children's Home in Chingleput for the orphaned and semi-orphaned children in 1998 in a small way. Later on World Servants, Holland sent a team of volunteers (about 38 youth) and constructed a building measuring 1200 sq.ft. The same was dedicated on July,



2001. The second block measuring 1200 sq. ft. plus stair case was constructed in July, 2001 and dedicated on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2002.

At present 18 children, an elderly man, two old women, and one destitute woman are staying in the home. The children are studying in the Government School located next to our compound.

### ***Milestone -43***



#### **Type writing Training Course: 2004**

During 2004, 10 students underwent Type writing training course and obtained Government Certificates.

### ***Milestone -44***

#### **Health Education: HIV/AIDS Training Programme:**

HIV/AIDS programme on the theme “Ecumenical Churches’ Response to HIV/AIDS” was organised. The main aim was to create awareness on HIV/AIDS to Pastors, Church and Institutional leaders from various parts of Tamilnadu.

The methods adopted for conducting the training programme were:

- (1) Pre-evaluation and post evaluation questionnaire were distributed.
- (2) O.H.P. and slides.
- (3) LCD (on hire).
- (4) Resource materials on HIV/AIDS both in English and local languages were distributed.
- (5) In many of the training programmes, HIV Positive people were invited to share their testimonies and their problems.

The Topics taken up for discussions included:

- (i) General Introduction to HIV/AIDS.
- (ii) Psychosocial problems & Facts and Figures of HIV/AIDS.
- (iii) Ethical and Biblical Perspective Churches’ Response
- (iv) Care and support including counseling to HIV positive people
- (v) Group discussion & Plan of Action.

#### **Feed back from the participants:**

“This is the first programme I attended on HIV/AIDS”. – Rev. Peter, Cuddalore.

“I was under the impression that HIV/AIDS is not an issue for the Church; and it is not a spiritual issue. Now I am convinced that Church has an important role to play”. - Rev. Samuel Paul, Chennai.

“I feel sad that 95% of the members of the congregation including pastors have no vision about HIV positive people”. – Rev. A. Richard, Madurai.

It is very encouraging to know about Churches involvement. We appreciate Tamilnad Christian Council for making such pioneering effort to reach out to Church leaders both the ordained and the laity. – Dr. Relton, Resource Person, Trichy.

### ***Milestone -45***

#### **Enhancement of Curriculum: - Computer Hardware Training - 2005**



With the blessings of our President, Rt. Rev. V. Devasahayam, Computer Hardware Training was inaugurated on 26th September, 2004. We place on record the generous contribution made by the Lutheran World Federation, Geneva and we express our sincere thanks to them. We also express our sincere thanks to Rt. Rev. Dr. John Franklin, the former President of TNCC, Rev. Dr. Augustine Jayakumar, Convener of TCCELC and Dr. K. Rajaratnam for having been the sources of contact.

During 2005, two batches of 11 students successfully completed the training.

We are very happy to inform that the following four courses have received the recognition from the Government:

1. Job Oriented Desk Top Publishing,
2. Data Entry Operator,
3. Computer Aided Accounting Management
4. Computer Hardware Technology.

### ***Milestone -46***

#### **HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme:**

The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) reports that the number of Indians living with HIV has increased from 5 million in 2003 to 5.1 million. Prevention is the only means to control the spread of HIV-AIDS. Therefore Awareness programme on HIV-AIDS is being conducted by TNCC at various levels using various methods.



#### **Awareness programme for School Children and Youth:**



Three programmes were conducted (Two programmes in Madurai and one in Arkonam) for the youth in the Churches and for the school children in Arkonam. After the programme, the students went on a rally into the streets holding placards and shouting slogans and distributed pamphlets to the general public on HIV-AIDS.

#### **Awareness programme for Auto and Transport**



### **Drivers:**

Three programmes for auto and transport drivers were conducted at Krishnagiri, Chingleput and Dharmapuri. The Chairman of the Tamilnadu Social Welfare Board, issued letters to the Regional Transport Drivers in different districts and with the help of the RTOs, programmes were conducted for the drivers. In two of the places, Police Officers also participated.



### **Awareness programme for Pastors and Church Leaders:**

So far we about 62 programmes have been conducted for Pastors and Church leaders in various places with an aim to create awareness and thereby enabling the Churches to take the responsibility of creating awareness among the Congregations on the seriousness of the issue.

### **Milestone -47**

### **Tsunami Relief Work:**



was taken up by the Council in partnership with CASA:

The year 2004 ended on a dreadful note and the New Year began with bleak and mixed feelings due to Tsunami that hit coastal south India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand, Andaman-Nicobar Islands and Indonesia on Sunday, the 26th December 2004. Several thousands were killed due to the sudden and unexpected fury of the seas and collapse of buildings. Coastal Tamilnadu, India suffered heavy damages. Several millions of people remained displaced. Tsunami emergency relief work

### **Trauma Care and Counseling Programme:**



The post Tsunami situation posed a multi faceted issue. People were not recovered from the pain of loss and trauma. The frequent recurrence of earth quakes in Asia de-motivated and kept people constantly under fear. Trauma has caused deep wounds in the minds of all, adults and children equally. Such deep wounds can be healed only through counseling.

Therefore the TNCC conducted trauma care and counseling training to Care givers who are involved in social work at the grass root level and who in turn can provide counseling to the victims. A Counseling Training Programme was held at Nagapattinam from 14th to 18th of March 2005. The World Council of Churches, Geneva sponsored the programme.

The Rt.Rev. Dr. T. Aruldoss, Bishop of the Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church inaugurated the programme. The Rt.Rev. Dr. James Srinivasan, Bishop, CSI Trichy-Tanjore Diocese gave the valedictory address. 38 participants from CSI- Madras Diocese, CSI-Trichy-Tanjore Diocese, CSI-Tirunelveli Diocese, CSI Madurai-Ramnad Diocese, Arcot Lutheran Church, Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church, Community Service Centres and other Social Service Organizations working at the grass root level participated in the programme.