

PONDICHERRY MULTIPURPOSE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2002 – 2003.

PMSSS, with the option for poorest of the poor undertake various social development activities to enhance the individual, family and community life of its target population. Since 80% of the people in the area of operation of PMSSS belong to agricultural community and they fully dependent on agriculture and agricultural based activities PMSSS focused its thrust towards dangerous situation accruing in environmental degradation, natural calamities, man-made disasters which totally disturb the agriculture occupation and agricultural community in total. Intending to create mass awareness and training the people on sustainable agriculture and bring about a solid social economical, educational, culture and political development PMSSS initiated programme for the welfare and development of poor and marginalized. The Annual Report 2002 – 2003 presented will illustrate them briefly.

Community Drinking Water Borewell:

PMSSS with the support from Caritas India, New Delhi erected bore wells in 2 villages and around 5000 people benefitted of getting drinking water especially rural women and children were relieved from long standing problem and suffering.

Women and Child Development:

Poor rural women and orphan children in 3 villages totaling to 150 were given support for their education and employment.

New school construction and extension work done in two villages to benefit 3000 children towards their safe, hygienic and good education.

Evening school programme were conducted in 5 village location benefiting around 1000 rural poor children who were dropped out of the school education due to poverty.

Care of street children and slum dwelling children was taken up by PMSSS as a special programme and Kiruba community center was established in Pondicherry. The center take care of 25 girl children and provides shelter, clothing, food, Non-formal education, skills and Vocational Training, and school education. Family counseling, social awareness for street dwelling family members give more strength to the programme for future transformation.

Promotion of Fraternal Life Communities (Credit Unions):

Fraternal Life Communities were promoted by PMSSS as a viable tool for community and People's Development. So far 193 credit unions were functioning and newly 50 credit unions were promoted during the year. In total 243 credit unions with 11,614 members having a savings of Rs. 2,17,13,081 functions with PMSSS promoting self help and mutual help. To strengthen the credit union activities awareness education, credit union managerial skills, accounts management, conduct of General Body, Leadership Education Programme are conducted. 108

trainings benefited around 2660 members. The village level credit unions were followed up to finish their annual accounts auditing and conducted their General Body Meetings and ensured people participation and responsibility in development. Around 4255 credit union members were extended small income generation loan to undertake petty trades to raise their income status.

Under land for landless 10 agricultural coolies were extended loans to purchase 10.25 acres of land. Home for Homeless programme enabled 3 credit union agriculture collies to construct low cost house.

Social Assistance Programme:

The deserted, neglected aged people, chronically sick and handicapped who remained uncared for were identified and given monthly assistance of Rs. 75 per person per month under Social Assistance Programme. In total 388 were supported during the year with the donation from general public and well wishers.

New Thrust Programme for women and Agricultural Community Development:

Women and agricultural community people were non-formally educated and trainee to organize themselves in SHG's to realize their needs, rights and problems for their total integral development. 202 women SHG with 3468 members and 104 agricultural SHG with 1367 members were formed. Both the women and agricultural SHG were federated at Union, Taluk and District level to ensure effective participation in the process of development. Regular monthly group meetings, federation meetings, skills and management, vocational trainings conducted strengthened the activities of SHG's to take up individual, family and community issues affecting women and agricultural occupation. The SHG members mobilized their savings to the tune of Rs. 27,68,900. Training on organic farming, social forestry, environmental degradation, soil and water conservation techniques helped the small and marginal farmers to streamline their activities.

Health care and Mentally ill Rehabilitation Programme:

Due to Non-availability of proper medical facilities at Cuddalore district, Villupuram District Centres and village location poor people approach PMSSS for care and support in Pondicherry which has very good medical facility. Hence during the year 1203 people from 83 villages were counseled, guided for needed and proper treatment for various sickness by PMSSS social workers.

48 street roaming and family based mentally ill people were identified and referred for medical treatment and rehabilitation at Fraternal Life Service Home for Mentally ill. Village level motivation, awareness on mental health, its causes and prevention methods were highlighted to members and leaders of credit union, women groups and youth groups.

Youth Saving Groups:

Unemployed and underemployed rural poor youth were trained and organized into integral groups to enhance their leadership qualities, skills for their betterment. 75 youth groups were formed with 1762 members and mobilized savings to the tune of Rs. 35,34,256. The youth groups were encouraged to approach banks and Government Departments to obtain loans and benefits to enhance the socio-economic condition.

Delayed Marketing of Agricultural Produces Programme:

Coolies, small and marginal farmers are found to be losing their market and income due to their toiling labors for their agricultural produces. Hence the farmers were aware and trained on marketing system, storing of produces at harvest season and selling them at peak time for high price to get good income. The members from 14 credit unions participated in the programme and gained good knowledge and marketed their produces for very good price and raised their family income.

Tribal Development and Refugee Care:

The primary school at Kalvarayan Hills educated 53 tribal children. SHG has been initiated with the tribal community to raise their socio-economic standard. Community Health Programme introduced help the tribal children and women to satisfy their health needs.

During the year refugees at various camps in Cuddalore, Villupuram and Pondicherry regions assisted for medical rehabilitation, water, sanitary facilities. 310 refugees benefited in total.

Computer Training Programme:

PMSSS established a computer training center to impart computer education for poor and marginalized people at a low cost. One month, 3 month and 6 month courses were offered and 148 children benefited through the computer center.

(FR. R. RATCHAGAR)

Secretary

**Pondicherry Multipurpose Social
Service Society.**