



SIVA TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT-2019

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

One more year has passed in the Trust's continuous work for the development



of downtrodden sections of the society and for safeguarding the children from all types of abuse and exploitation. Our regular activities continued in 15 villages of Melaneelithanallur block in Tirunelveli district. However, following the bifurcation of Tirunelveli district during the year, 5 of our working villages have gone to Manur taluk of Tirunelveli district and 10 villages to Sankarankovil taluk of

Tenkasi district. Another milestone for the Trust this year was the purchase of own building in the working village of Vanniconendal and shifting of the registered office to that building from Tirunelveli in the month of July. The project for tribal development in 9 hills of Tamil Nadu with the financial support of HEKS-EPER, Switzerland continued successfully during this year also. Another minor project undertaken by the Coimbatore office of the Trust was the training of spinning mill workers in Coimbatore area on their legal entitlements under labor laws and also the creation of a safe working environment to the women workers through the formation of Internal Complaint Committees in all the mills.

I thank the generous individual and institutional donors, Government officials, public, well-wishers, Board members and the team of dedicated staff members, as without their support, the accomplishments could not have been achieved.

S.S.Shiva
Managing Trustee/ Director

WHO ARE WE ?

SIVA Trust is a registered Public Charitable Trust, working since 1994 with the main goal of reducing poverty. We are also working towards prevention and eradication of child labour in the Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu.

OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Empowerment & socio-economic development of the downtrodden.
- ❖ Empowerment & sustained livelihood for poor women in rural and semi-urban areas.
- ❖ Access to savings and credit for income generation of the poor women.
- ❖ Quality education and skill development for youth.
- ❖ Improving health status of women and children.
- ❖ Creating awareness on HIV/AIDS, life style related and contagious diseases.
- ❖ Democratizing panchayats for local self-governance.
- ❖ Prevention and eradication of child labor/child marriage.
- ❖ Prevention of child abuse and protection of child rights.
- ❖ Ensuring the land rights of the tribal people and their economic improvement through the land rights
- ❖ Creating awareness on disaster risk reduction in hills and forest areas.
- ❖ Uniting the tribal people under a democratic institution, by providing them necessary training for the same.







Vision

Total empowerment of rural and semi urban people in the aspects of Socio-Economic, Health and Education status.

Mission

Awareness Generation, Education programs and Trainings to the target people in order to achieve the vision of the organization.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. S.S.Shiva	Managing trustee	
Mr. T. Selwyn	Finance Trustee	
Mr. T.T. Ramesh Raja	Trustee	
Mr. A. Narayanan	Trustee	
Mrs. R. Hemima	Trustee	

WHERE DO WE WORK?

- Manur Taluk in Tirunelveli District (5 villages) and Sankaran kovil taluk in Tenkasi district (10 villages) (under TdH-NL Revolving Fund program)
- Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu covering Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Theni, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Erode, Dharmapuri and Salem districts (under HEKS-EPER program)
- Coimbatore district spinning mills (under the project of Multi Stakeholder Initiative – Tamil Nadu)

Overview of major activities during 2019

- Socio-economic empowerment of Women
- Income generation programs through linkages with SHGs
- Health awareness programs
- Child Rights Protection
- Organizing evening tuition centers
- Enrolling children back to school
- Counselling & support to persons with disability
- Conducting awareness programs in the community
- Getting land right to the tribal people under Forest Rights Act, 2006
- Forming Village Development Committees, Farmers Interest Groups
- Training tribal farmers on agricultural development and Govt. schemes
- Orienting tribal people on Disaster Risk Reduction
- Arranging market linkages to things produced by tribal farmers

- Organizing the tribal people into their own Federation and training them on leadership quality and financial management
- Getting the tribal people, community certificate, old age pension, tribal welfare board membership card, ration card, free LPG connection, seeds/ saplings/fertilizer/agri. implements on subsidy from Govt. agencies, benefits under Prime Minister's Kisan Assistance Scheme
- Training the textile mill workers on legal rights they should enjoy and a safe working place for them
- Orienting the women workers in textile industry on the provisions of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Workplace Act and the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act and also on formation of Internal Complaints Committee and Local Complaints Committee

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

Silver Jubilee function of SIVA Trust

Being the Silver Jubilee year of the organisation, as a part of Silver Jubilee celebrations, a five-fold programme was conducted in the Government Higher Secondary School, Thirumalapuram, addressed by DEO and Dy.S.P. Sankarankovil and two orators and a yoga teacher. More than 700 students and 30 teachers of the school participated. A drinking water tank was opened on the occasion for the benefit of the students. Tree saplings were planted within the school campus. Awareness program was conducted on rain water harvesting.



Steel Benches and desks were presented to accommodate the students in their class. Two students with disability were issued with educational materials.



The other programme was the provision of employment training related books to the youth of Vadakku Puliampatti in Melaneelithanallur block of Tirunelveli district. The youth members were requesting SIVA



Trust for such a help and assured to set up a small library in one of the rooms of local Primary School, where the youth aspiring to appear for competitive exams will use the books under the supervision of a local youth. Managing Trustee of SIVA Trust arranged books worth Rs.8870 from a book shop at Tirunelveli and also gave some of the books relevant to them from the library in the Trust office.

In the formal opening function of the library held in the village in the morning, local leader Mr. Murugesan initially welcomed the gathering and advised the local youth to use the help rendered for their progress. Mr. Siva handed over the books to the youth and wished

them all a bright future. Finance Trustee, Mr. Selwyn and the staff of SIVA Trust attended the function.

In one more programme, held in the Trust office at Vanniconendal village, five foldable walkers were provided to 5 old people belonging to nearby villages, who have either lost their legs or got affected by paralytic attack and hence unable to move.



These walkers were of great help to them, in their mobility for their day-to-day needs and even to earn something under the MGNREGA scheme for their livelihood. Director, SIVA Trust distributed the walkers to

them and explained its operation. Mr. Selwyn, Finance Trustee and other staff of SIVA Trust were present on the occasion. All the beneficiaries expressed thanks to the help given by SIVA Trust, which are really useful to them.

Capacity building of Women SHG members:

During the year, there were 147 women Self Help Groups functioning with 2038 members. These members saved Rs.22,84,200 and 709 members availed internal loan to the tune of Rs.3,66,49,500. Besides, 389 members availed Revolving Fund loan of Rs.1,86,55,000 (Rs.86,05,000 for agriculture operations, Rs.14,00,000 for other income generation activities and Rs.86,50,000 for education, house construction, medical expenses and other emergency purposes.

They were prompt in repaying their loan dues every month. Thus the system released them from the clutches of usurious money lenders, on whom they were dependent earlier.

Intensive training program for Women SHG members was organized 34 times during the year collecting 2183 members cumulatively, when the members learnt about their roles and functions as the leaders and members of the SHGs. The training program helped the participants to learn their roles in the group economic development, welfare of the members and the community as a whole.



In these programs, the members explained how their income improved by availing loan from the Trust and starting small scale business. Focus was made on child protection, welfare of differently abled, prevention of child marriage and clean village campaign.

They were also told to avail the vocational training facilities in computer and tailoring provided by SIVA Trust to improve the skill of their wards. They were guided to take interest on local civic issues and approach authorities to get their problems solved.



As a result of these trainings, in Vadkku Puliampatti, the SHG members themselves cleaned the clogged drainage and the entire street. In Thevarkulam, water supply to dalit area was stopped 15 years back on flimsy reasons.



On the motivation of SIVA Trust, the area people petitioned to the District Collector and on her order, the DRDA officials inspected the spot, found out the mischief done by panchayat officials in diverting the water to another area and took action to restore water supply to the dalit area, after a gap of 15 years. By the efforts of villagers, drinking water pipe line was fixed in Pudu Gramam area of Vanniconendal and 22 families started using home lavatory facilities in Thevarkulam.



Special Gram Sabha meeting

On our motivation, our women SHG members took part in the Gram Sabha meeting held on January 26 at Meelaneelithanallur, Periyakovilankulam and Vanniconendal villages and spoke regarding the local infrastructure improvement. In the Special Gram Sabha meeting conducted on November 15 at Thevarkulam, our staff explained to the gathered people about the various welfare activities conducted by SIVA Trust in that area.



Observance of International Women's Day



SIVA Trust organised Women's Day celebrations on March 8th at Thirumalapuram, in which more than 210 women SHG members participated. While SIVA Trust Managing Trustee greeted the women on that occasion, State level Health Trainer Rajam spoke on the importance of toilet use and ICDS Supervisor Annammal spoke on women and child health. The members presented song and dance programs and prizes were distributed.

Observance of World Day against Child Labour

SIVA Trust observed the World Day against Child Labour on June 12 by arranging procession by 143 students of High school at Melaneelithanallur, shouting slogans against the child labour system. The students of evening tuition centre at Vanniconendal also observed the day.



Observance of World Environment Day

On the occasion of World Environment Day, SIVA Trust organised a program in Vadakku Puliampatti on June 4th, when the local school students (62) took out procession carrying placards to keep the environment clean and avoid plastics. The SHG members of the village joined in cleaning the village premises and tree plantation work was also taken up.



Monitoring Anganwadi centres



Under the NP-MDMS scheme, SIVA Trust has been included as a member in the monitoring committee consisting of revenue and police officials for supervising the effective functioning of the Anganwadis located in Melanelithanallur block. In the meeting for the purpose held on June 28 in Panchayat Union office, M.N. Nallur, Community Organisers Hemima and Umabathy attended and they were explained the role of the members of the committee. The staff continued the monitoring work throughout the year.

Training to Anganwadi staff

The Trust staff used the occasion of monthly meeting (53) of Anganwadi staff at Sankarankovil in the month of February to tell them about methods to prevent anaemic conditions, avoiding low weight child birth, maintaining height – weight normality of adolescent girls and consumption of healthy and nutrient food.

Annual summer camp for students

The annual summer camp for the students under the care of SIVA Trust was organised on 15th June at Thirumalapuram, with the participation of 122 students. Finance Trustee Mr. T. Selwyn made special address. The trainer Mr. Anbalagan conducted the training with songs, stories, games and exercises. The children enjoyed the program. Prizes were distributed to those who scored highest marks in the 10th public exams in the villages.



Supplementary Education Centres

Supplementary education centres functioned in 5 villages initially with a total strength of 168, where the children with poor academic knowledge were given extra coaching to cope up with the exam requirements. They were also given sessions on general knowledge and extracurricular activities. In the last quarter, the number of the centres went up to 7, raising the students' strength to 311 (170 boys+ 141 girls). The coaching in these centres by local volunteers has improved their academic status to an appreciable level. All the 21 students who appeared for 10th public exam from these centres have passed, with 2 students getting above 90% and 4 getting above 80%.



Anniversary of supplementary centre



The supplementary centre students of Vanniconendal celebrated their 3rd anniversary in a grand manner on May 6th, in which the Trustees of SIVA Trust, jurisdictional police officials and local community leaders participated and greeted the students on their achievements in academic and other fields.

Sports competitions and cultural events were organised and the winners were motivated with prizes, by SIVA Trust.



Re-enrolment of drop out students



Every year, in the months of May and June, SIVA Trust staffs conduct intensive survey in the working villages, find out cases of school drop outs, convince the students and their parents and get them re-enrolled in schools.



This year also, the staffs identified 7 students, who had dropped out from schools due to various reasons and got all of them re-admitted in the schools. Their attendance and performance in school education are continuously being monitored. Wherever necessary they are encouraged to join the evening tuition centres run by the Trust, to improve their educational performance. The staff continued to identify cases of school drop outs, convinced the students and their parents and got them re-enrolled.



During July and August, the staff identified 4 students, who had dropped out from schools due to various reasons and got them admitted in tutorial centres and vocational training centres. Two students who dropped out due to inability to understand lessons were counselled and re-admitted in TDTA School, Thevarkulam in November.

Augmenting facilities in supplementary centre at Therku Achampatti



The Trust Director visited the supplementary centre at Therku Achampatti, where more than 100 students are getting coaching in the evening hours, addressed the students on their future and assured to talk to authorities for a suitable location for the centre, as presently the classes are taken on the open streets.

He also assured the Trust's support for one more teaching staff and also handed over some guide books to enhance the coaching. The teachers were told to engage the students on extra-curricular studies also and make them prepare for competitive exams.

Adolescent girls meeting

The Health worker conducted adolescent girls meetings in all the fifteen villages regularly, in which a total of 521 adolescent girls attended and she explained to them the 5 goals of SIVA Trust and urged them to work for those goals in their villages. Besides, they were told about self-hygiene, menstrual cleanliness, opposing child marriage and child labour etc. They were also told about POCSO Act. The children understood the need for individual latrines in each house. One girl of Koovachipatti was diagnosed for anaemic deficiency and she is taking vitamin tablets to make up her health.



ANC/PNC meeting

In the working villages, a total of around 265 ANC/PNC mothers got advice and counselling from the regular meetings conducted by the Health Worker of the Trust. The services of VHN and Govt Hospital Doctors were also utilised to advise and orient the pre-natal and post-natal mothers on maintaining their own health and that of the child, importance of breast feeding and vaccination, intake of nutritious food etc.



Children's Club meetings

The Trust has children's clubs effectively functioning in all the working villages. Regular meetings are conducted by the staff to orient them on child rights. In such meetings, 158 children (84 boys and 74 girls) attended and they were told about the importance of education and the evils of child labour.



They were also advised to utilise the services of evening tuition centres organised by SIVA Trust. They were also taught life skill education and the ways to face problems and how to handle them.

Youth Club activities:



Youth club meetings were conducted by the Education Motivator when the youth were asked to work for the goals of SIVA Trust, in their respective areas, to stop child labour, child marriage, to keep the village clean and healthy. A total of 508 youth attended these meetings conducted at 37 centres during the year and they assured to work along with the Trust.

Vocational training:



In the tailoring institutes functioning at Vanniconendal and Thevarkulam, 35 girls and women have been trained during the year. They are trained in making rexin bag also. A small function was held in March to distribute certificates to 25 trainees and also to give away prizes to those who won in the competitions held.



A computer training centre was also started in the SIVA Trust office at Vanniconendal, in which a girl with disability was offered teaching position and she is training 18 students as well as the staff members.

Education awareness meetings to students:



Our Education Promoter conducted awareness programs to students in 20 schools (837) during the year, when they were asked not to use cell phones, to prevent child marriage, child labour, dropping out from schools etc.

As a result of the awareness creation, one drop out was identified at Muthukrishnapuram and he was counselled on the importance of education.

A rally was organised by the Trust to mark Kamaraj's birthday on July 15, stressing the importance of education by mobilising the students and teachers of Panchayat Union Primary School, Vanniconenda



Public Health Awareness meetings:

The Health Worker organised awareness meetings on public health issues in 17 centres (397) during the year, when she explained the evils of diabetes, need to consume more water during summer months, intake of nutritious food and regular counselling to the children. In a special program held in October, the streets of Vadakku Puliampatti were cleaned by our staff with the help of conservancy workers.



Regular counselling to affected children:

Regular counselling on importance of education and need for economic improvement continued to the 6 identified affected children by the Trust staff. A special meeting (13) of the children and parents was organised on April 30 in SIVA Trust project office, when they were told



about the educational and vocational training opportunities available to the children. During the month of June, 28 affected students were identified and out of them 11 were re-schooled. Others are being counselled by the staff.

EVERY YEAR WE SERVE

TOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.

EACH PERSON IS FIGHTING

A DIFFERENT STUGGLE.

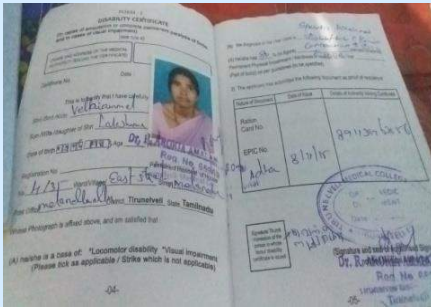
HERE ARE A FEW STORIES

THAT INSPIRED US, WHICH

WE THOUGHT WE SHOULD

SHARE.

Assistance to Persons with Disability:



SIVA Trust staff continued focussed work for around 100 persons with disability in 15 villages in Melanelithanallur and Manur blocks. The staff was engaged in getting the persons with disability the National Disability ID card, pension, aids & appliances, rail/bus pass and other Government schemes available, by interacting with the Tirunelveli District Differently abled Rehabilitation Officer. During the year, 8 persons got ID card and 6 persons got rail/bus travel pass. Besides, 10 applications have been submitted seeking rail/bus pass. The earlier submitted other applications of PwDs have also been pursued regularly. One deaf and dumb woman of Vanniconandal was helped in getting free sewing machine from Govt, for her livelihood.

With the help of a homeopathic doctor from Kerala, homeopathic medical assistance was provided free of cost to 15 persons with disability, including 3 MR children, for various ailments during the month of January. Follow up treatment was given to 11 and 3 new cases were taken care of in February.



One mild mentally retarded, 17-years old girl of Koovachipatti, who had studied up to 8th Std. and was doing cooli work for 4 years was counselled to undergo vocational skill training for her sustenance and was admitted in the tailoring class conducted by the Trust at Vanniconendal.

An 18-years old deaf and dumb youth of Vadakku Puliyampatti hailing from a barber's family, who dropped out from school and was working in Kerala for a few years was convinced to continue education and got him admission in 9th Standard in Florence Swainson Deaf School at Palayamkottai, where everything is provided free to him. He is pursuing school studies with lot of interest and hopes to get a better employment after the education.



Another deaf and dumb, 7 year old boy of Thenkalampudur village was admitted by the Trust staff in the CSI Deaf School, Palayamkottai in 1st standard in the month of July and he has started attending school for the first time. Four more students of Meenthulli were got admission in St. Anne's school.

A poor, mild mentally retarded boy of Ayalpatti, who is studying 12th Standard in Govt Higher Secondary School, Thirumalapuram was provided with his requirements like sets of school uniform, shoes, notebooks and writing materials, to encourage him continue and progress in his academic



The Trust staff assisted Govt officials in issuing Unique Disability ID smart cards to persons with disability, in the month of August in the Block Development Offices of M.N. Nallur and Manur. They also helped 492 persons with disability, who applied for assistive devices in special camps conducted in M.N. Nallur and Manur Block offices



Awareness meetings on disability:



Awareness meetings were conducted during the year at 16 villages, explaining the various services undertaken by the Trust for the welfare of persons with disability and also for the protection of child rights.

A total of 441 members attended these meetings.

District Child Protection meeting:



SIVA Trust representatives attended the child protection meeting organised by the DCPO in the District Collectorate on July 12 and conveyed the views on the challenges faced in protecting the child rights and how all the agencies could jointly work to resolve the issues

Peer Learning Workshop:



The Trust representative Hemima attended the peer learning workshop organised by Global Giving at Chennai and got oriented on JJ Act, Child Welfare Committee and District Child Protection Unit.

HEKS Project activities:

As an implementing partner of the project 'Tamil Nadu People's Forum for Land Rights (TPFLR)', supported by HEKS - EPER, Switzerland, for ensuring improved quality of life for 15000 Adivasi families in Tamil Nadu through land mobilisation and sustainable livelihood, SIVA Trust implemented the project work in the Districts of Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Theni, Tirupur, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Erode, Dharmapuri and Salem (Yercaud Hills) during the year 2019.

The Trust helped the target people in filling 2082 new individual & rejected cases and 488 for collective rights claim forms under Forest Rights Act, 2006, lobbied with officials and got 989 individual titles for 580 Hectares and 74 community titles for 11059 Hectares during the year. Besides, the staff motivated the tribal farmers to form 39 new Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) and one Farmers Producers Group (FPG) to avail Government assistance and also to market their products directly. Besides, 7019 persons were helped in accessing Government and other resources and 2746 persons were benefitted with new water



facilities. Training on agro-ecological production methods were organized to model farmers in 38 centres, benefitting 2142 persons. Awareness programmes on disaster risk reduction, prevention, protection of life and properties at the time of disasters and seeking relief and rehabilitation from Government and other resources were conducted during regular field visit of the staff. They also established 20 new village development committees to successfully carry out the project activities in 20 Panchayats. A new Society was formed in December, 2019 in the name of Tribal People's Fellowship for Livelihood Resources (TPFLR), with tribal representatives as office bearers.



Conclusion

During the calendar year 2019, SIVA Trust has made some significant improvement in the socio-economic and cultural background in its project area. Given more opportunities and support, the Trust can expand such services to other nearby areas, using the band of experienced staff it has. The Trust looks forward for valuable suggestions, voluntary assistance and effective support from all sections of the community in implementing its goal of creating child exploitation free environment in the areas where it is presently working. The Trust is ready to shoulder more responsibilities in this field or any other field, which will be useful for the society in general.

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