

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 - 2016



**ANIMATORS FOR RURAL MULTIPURPOSE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
(ARMDS)**

*Irudhayapuram, Via Mugaiyur, Thirukovilur Taluk, Villupuram District Tamil Nadu,
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From the Desk of the Secretary

I am filled with joy and the pen in my hand just forces me to write a few words as I sit and look back at the various achievements and milestones of ARMDS. I am moved a lot when I see joys of people around which was a rare reality two decades ago. I have found several young men and women employed in the nearby service centres and I rejoice when they come to meet me and acknowledge the support of ARMDS towards their upliftment. Certainly all these are possible not without your genuine support. I humbly acknowledge the intense planning and dotted implementation with the support of our beloved beneficiaries, helped us reach the height of progress. I owe much to all of them.

Initiated this organization with a view to mainstreaming and alleviating the sufferings of our fellow brethren who needed our help desperately! The one Divine guided us and our friends backed me up to undertake this mission and bring joy to this human race. Now as I go back to those moments, my mind makes me pause, at every incident that took place from the day one. Every incident and every moment was a moment of great learning. Today we have travelled so much to this distant land of work for the poor. I am filled with immense satisfaction that we have helped people grow. Thanks to all the selfless persons both in the country and outside the country without whose relentless support we would not be what we are today.

Indeed during this reporting year, we have done a lot towards the upliftment of the dropouts and the mentally retarded and cerebral palsied children with the generosity of the government officials in Tamilnadu and benevolent supporters from abroad. The Residential school acted as gateway to reenter normal schooling and have rejuvenated life. The Arpanam school breathed a positive outlook into the parents and the children. The innovative styles in handling these children carried out by our dedicated teachers, guided by the various extravert officials, moulded us and sharpened our framework while working for these unfortunate. The unfortunate children of Arpanam were supported by De Brug through the instrumentality of Ms. Helen and Ms. Rjet for the vocational course. They are helped to stand on their feet through this skill training program. We owe much to all these generous persons. Thanks to the support of VESI, USA towards the development of the Arpanam school.

The arrival of a hundreds of pre-university students from UK – Royal Latin school and Newman school, for an exposure made all of us marvel. It was both learning and sharing of our experiences, appreciate each others' cultural heritage and carry forward the good in each other. They initiated the construction of the four classroom building. Today through the generosity of Sari foundation who offered us support for

Roofing. Soon we will initiate plastering, purchase of doors..... through some good persons to complete this building.

During this reporting period, we had the progress working with the income generation program for the parents of the CP/MR children. This has been offering them a renewed hope and life. We thank Strathspey charitable Trust for their generosity. We are indebted much to the Tamilnadu State Commissioner of Differently Abled, Chennai and District Differently Abled Welfare Officer, Villupuram for their continuous support towards the empowerment of the Children with disabilities.

Thanks to the dedication and guidance of honorable Chief Educational Officer (SSA), Villupuram, Assistant District Project Coordinator(ADPC), District Coordinator (SSA), District Disabled Rehabilitation officer (DDRO), Mugaiyur Block Supervisor (SSA), Block Resource Teachers without whose prompt guidance and support, our efforts to rehabilitate the CP/MR and the Residential school children would be in vain. Of course thanks to the Environment Education of EVR for helping us preserve the environment green.

Dear friends, we are thankful to our donors, well wishers and all kind of supporters who constantly think of our targeted masses and render their generosity in all ways. We acknowledge that we are nothing without our generous donors who constantly make our dreams realizable and we offer this report for their good health and good health of their family members, fulfillment & happiness in their works.

As we run into the various events, we feel that God and the Godly persons were ever with us supporting us and helping us. We can never erase you all from our memories. We look forward to your continued support in the future too making the one living God easily tangible.

Looking forward to meeting you all in person when chance permits!

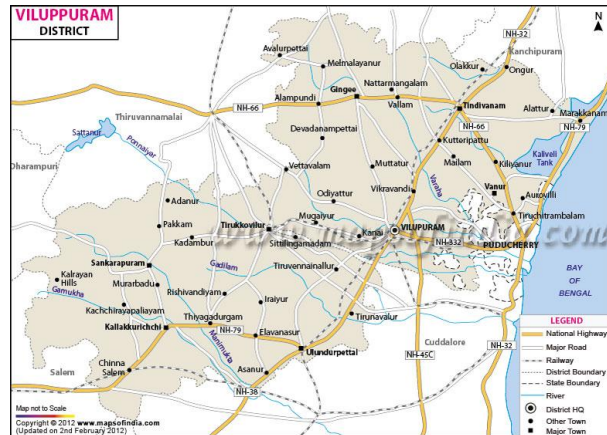


A.SUSAINATHAN
SECRETARY – ARMDS

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ORIGINATION OF ARMDS

ARMDS (Animators for Rural Multipurpose Development Society) is a non-governmental, non religious and non-profit making organization, has been working in the belt of Mugaiyur since 1990. It principally works towards the rehabilitation of the downtrodden, outcaste, disabled, Cerebral Palsied and Mentally Retarded children where drop



out children from the poorest families serve our principal focus. ARMDS fundamentally has a soft corner for the CP/MR, the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and the drop out children from various pitiable family conditions with special reference to the young, children and the women who form neglected sections of the human society. Thus in order to offer these forgotten masses so called “CP/MR, PWDs, the DROP OUTS”, poor and the segregated sections and to offer a new life and to care for these uncared children, the like-minded youth came together and in the course of period, it is named as Animators for Rural Multipurpose Development Society (ARMDS) and had the formal registration in 1990.

ARMDS on the RUN

We have organized various programs from 1990 in order to rehabilitate the broken families, youth, children and women from various social, economic and political situations. We have left no stone unturned to mainstream each section of the society and today it has won laurels. Right from the start, ARMDS was organizing various Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme with appropriate strategy. It joined hands with CBR forum, Bangalore and made lot of efforts to offer support to this PWD section of the society who numbered 507. It collaborated with the Government of Tamilnadu in the *Vazhndhukattuvom Thittama* and *Vazhikattuvom Thittam*. We have helped *as many* PWDs as possible to get ID cards and all government concessions. It made all efforts to support PWDs. It started Self Help Groups for the Poor, separate Self Help Group for PWDs and separate SHGs for the women in order to get their rights and raise their cries against all atrocities and injustices. ARMDS organized various regular awareness programmes to help the disabled to trap government resources the disabled ID card, disabled rights in various departments & in various places. Certainly

through the support of Caritas India, New Delhi and CBR Forum, Bangalore, who supported extensively for our PWDs.

Gradually the shift also moved to the Cerebral Palsied & the Mentally Retarded sections of the society who are identified to be sidelined. To them the board made up its mind to start the Arpanam Special School. Today it is in full swing. Taking pity at the drop outs who emerge from different social situations, through generous support of the government of Tamilnadu through the Sarva Sikhsa Abhiyan (SSA) wing, it has started the Residential School for the Drop outs. It has completed its four years.

Taking the stock of the situation very seriously both the government and the like minded NGOs work in this line to offer these unlucky children a dignified future. ARMDS left no stone unturned to mainstream these children joining hands with the SSA wing of the Government of Tamilnadu.

Besides these, women empowerment programs, youth empowerment programs are underway by way of income generation programs and related skill training programs to mainstream and rehabilitate them, so that they may have self standing and sustainable future.

VISION OF ARMDS

Creating a conscientized caring society for the needy and the deprived to assert their human rights for a harmonious and peace coexisting life through active and sustained participation in the social development process.

MISSION OF ARMDS

Empowering the marginalized and the disadvantaged in the society through non-formal, vocational and continuing education with a view to helping them lead a goal-directed dignified human life.

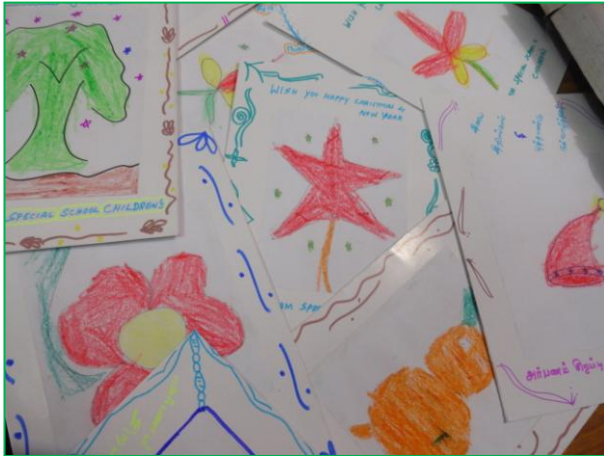
TARGET AREA/PEOPLE

ARMDS focuses on 45 most backward village Panchayats in and around Irudayapuram of Mugaiyur Block and 20 most backward village Panchayats in Rishivanthiyam Block, and 45 village Panchayats in Kandamangalam Block of Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu

MILESTONES OF ARMDS IN 2015-2016

Arpanam Special School for the CP/MR

ARMDS fundamentally has a soft corner for the CP/MR and the Persons with Disabilities (PWD). Of course, '*the children with Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation*'



(CP/MR) need special attention and care.

Thus in order to offer them a new life and to care for these uncared children, the board of ARMDS decided to start a separate school for these children. Our proposal was accepted by the honourable government of Tamilnadu keeping alive the meritorious services and the past profile of ARMDS. During this reporting

period there were 52 CP/MR on roll. They were supported by 9 teaching and non teaching staff members who took a motherly care of these children. We are happy, the periodic visits paid by DDAWO, Commissioner of Differently abled and other zealous government officials helped us add quality to our work and follow intensively these children for mainstreaming.

In order to empower these CP/MR children, we are happy that we are generously supported by DE BRUG, the Netherlands with the Vocational Training. We have candle making, cover making and Screen Printing. Through the resource person Mr. Sagayaraj, veteran in NGO work, Mr. Gnanaprakasam, Ms. Emalda and Mr. Vasanth offered them a six months training and continued the work of preparation. This vocation was intended for the CP/MR because these unfortunate cannot lifelong depend on somebody for their sustenance. Thanks to the understanding heart of DE BRUG. Presently they are doing pretty well.

Activities at the RSTC and Arpanam School

We are happy that various activities are conducted in order to keep the children agile and active. Further it is through activities they learn more. Hence lots of co-curricular and extracurricular activities are conducted. Singing, dancing, special writing, dramatization, sports,..... are some of the regular features. The children are kept busy and they enjoy every minute. Certainly periodically various competitions are conducted and offered prizes to honour and encourage them. Thus the children are motivated and helped to do better in the following competitions.



Significant days of the year like Independence day, Republic day, Deepavali, Children's day are conducted in order to instill in the young minds the true spirit of patriotism, brotherhood and love. World environment day is organized in order to help children on the importance of respect towards environment, forests, trees and nature. Hand wash day is organized to emphasis on cleanliness and world disabled day is organized to help the children to have a respect for our differently abled children. Thus we make every effort to make these children truly human beings first of all. Thus the entire campus of ARMDS is brimming with various activities and noise. The children enjoy a lot.

The activity at the Arpanam school starts at 9 am and ends at 4.30pm. The children are divided into 4 groups basing on their degree of disability. The teachers guide them and follow them regularly. The physiotherapist Dr.Mary Rosline comes regularly to offer therapy to the children. Thus the activity at the school is a happy home for the children. The parents of these children were given special therapy thrice a year. During the reporting period, on 1st September, 10th December and 23rd February



training were given to the parents of these CP/MR children. Thus we plan to empower the parents on the method of handling these children.

Flood knocks down Chennai,Cuddalore and Villupuram

This year, the unprecedented rainfall has caused extreme havoc. The entire campus of ARMDS was flooded. The children could not move out. Except a few belongings, books, mats,.....everything was carried away. Understanding the sorry plight of our children, we are delighted that Ms. Helen, the



Board Member of DE BRUG, came to offer us support and supported for purchasing a pair of uniforms and other little belongings. We really appreciate her thoughtful gesture.

Residential School for the School Dropouts (RSTC)

We are indeed much delighted to associate ourselves the committed and dedicated team from the government of Tamilnadu during this reporting period. It should be noted that due to urbanization and unemployment issues, the poor agricultural labourers migrate to the urban areas in seeking for an occupation. The frequent migration has resulted in loss of interest in children towards studies. Further due to poverty, illiteracy, lack of proper guidance, many children are perverted and misguided. To such of them the board of ARMDS felt the necessity to open up a Residential school through the support of the Government. So through the benevolence of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) we have this residential school run by ARMDS. There are 50 children from 2nd standard to 8th comprising of both boys and girls. Teachers are appointed to follow them up. Regular subjects are intensively taught to these children. Menu is decided and followed up. Various competitions are organized for them and children are kept busy thus. We are much hopeful that these children will be mainstreamed sooner. Thanks to the government of Tamilnadu which supports us through the SSA wing.

This school functions just like any other normal school. The intensity of follow up, profound love shared and congenial atmosphere, all make this school different from

other schools. It is a HOME for these children who have run away for various reasons. The periodic visits from the local SSA BRTes, supervisors,all enable us to do the qualitative services towards mainstreaming these dropouts and thus offering them a new and renewed life.

National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC)

We are happy that ARMDS continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India since 1991. We collaborate to preserve the environment and solicit people's collaboration in this regard. This year with the support and assistance of C.P. Ramsamy Foundation, Chennai, we are able to bring awareness on the importance of environmental preservation and protection. Making new avenues for this generation, ARMDS understands the seriousness of the present deforestation. It feels that we will be annihilating ourselves through deforestation. In order to maintain proper ecological balance and help future generation to have a hope filled life, ARMDS went out of its way from village to village speaking to its targeted masses on its importance. As we know well, even the reduction of rainfall is due to deforestation. Handbills and stickers were used for campaign purposes. We organized demonstrations against cutting of forest trees and killing of animals for man's selfish motives. We are happy that this was a meaningful agitation and calling people's attention towards harmful effects of such activities.

Arrival of the Students from UK

In order to have work experience and to share the culture with the view to having inter cultural exchange, Four groups pre – university students from UK in July, came to stay with us for a week each and helped us construct the Four classroom building. In fact, their work was very authentic. The students from UK did their best to feel one with the poor. We thank them for their assiduous labour and sharing their rich culture with us. They finished the work upto the pillar level.



Benefits from Income Generation program (IG)

To empower the poor parents of the CP/MR children, in the locality of Mugaiyur and its rural villages, the board of ARMDS requested the support of the board of Muttharam, the Netherlands. They were very kind to us and offered to us the immediate help. They supported 20 parents of our children to purchase cows. It was indeed a program to earn their livelihood. As it was a revolving program, the beneficiaries return the sum part by part for the benefit of others. The young ones are also given to the beneficiaries to multiply the beneficiaries. We are very happy that the program is going on very well and the beneficiaries are increasing month after month. The poverty is reduced and life is imposed in them. We see countless joy in these families. We are much thankful to Muttram for their timely support.

Welfare schemes implemented

We are much thankful to the board of VESI for their continuous support by way of welfare program for the unfortunate children of CP/MR. certainly without their act of charity during the reporting period, our dream of rejuvenation would not been possible at all. We join hands with them thanking their magnanimity.

Conclusion

Dear friends, we feel much delighted that much has been done to the poorest in our area through the generosity of many in and around and through the generosity of the officials from the Government of Tamilnadu. We offer them deepest reverence to their support and guidance. We thank them for their nobility, generosity, selflessness and huge painstaking efforts towards the rehabilitation of these forgotten and unfortunate masses of our area. We are sure that without the magnanimous support of you honorable friends, the mainstreaming and empowering these would not be possible. Thanks to you all. We wish that all these uplift our rural poor to come in grip with the social elites.

A.Susainathan

Secretary – ARMDS

