

**PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION OF  
STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN THROUGH  
COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The DBAI is situated in Salem, Tamil Nadu, in India. DBAI works for street and working children in two Districts; namely Salem and Namakkal. The main aim is to rehabilitate the children. DBAI targets two categories of children. The first is street children who are forced to leave their families and become rag-pickers, sweepers, hotel boys, pavement dwellers, orphan child labourers and alike. The other category is children still living with their families but who works as child labourers in industries such as weaving textiles, power looms, handlooms, silver chain making, rope making, in sago factories, bore well units, two-wheeler and auto mobile workshops.

The organization has an effective rehabilitation package for street children which includes provision of shelter, clothing, food, education, vocational training, job placement and home placement. Due to this, the street children are prevented from becoming anti social element. In addition to the institutional care, the community also has contributed in the rehabilitation process. The People Federation for Social Justice took initiative in eliminating the child labourers.

Anbu Illam is working in those areas where majority of the people belongs to the Dalits community. In the rehabilitation process, the People Federation is strengthened to tackle the issues namely Child Rights Violation and Human Rights Violation. The goal of DBAI is to form the People Movement.

## 1.1 Importance of Reporting Phase

### 1.1.1 People Federation for the Social Justice

This project phase has seen an immense growth from the perspective of people's participation in prevention and rehabilitation of street and working children. The Community Based Organizations have been strengthened to tackle the social issues on their own. They come together and form the People Federation for Social Justice at district level. At present there are two federations, one in Salem and the other one is in Namakkal. Now the cadres are identified and empowered to nominate in the local body election. The organization together with the community based organizations has addressed multifaceted problems and issues concerning child rights promotion and holistic growth of the marginalised communities.

### Duties and Responsibilities of the People Federation

- The members meet once in a month to work out the action plan for every month.
- Protesting against the violation of human rights like police atrocities, Casteism, and for the rehabilitation of the Dalits people towards rights to land.
- Fighting against the violation of the women rights and identifying and preventing the issues related to women like female infanticide, foeticide, dowry, sexual harassment and early marriage.
- Identifying and preventing child labourers and making each area as child labour free zone.

### **1.1.2 People Movement**

The long term goal is to form the people movement at inter district level. The existing two people federations will be interlinked to form the movement. The people movement will network with the other likeminded federations and act at state level.

### **1.1.3 Vocational Training**

The vocational training is organized to promote the living condition and to provide an employment opportunity for the youth. The committed, socially interested members of the federation are selected for the vocational training. The young men are given training in four-wheeler driving, electrician and painting. The young women are being trained in tailoring.

### **1.1.4 Community Based Care for Street Children**

The identified street and runaway children are provided institutional care. Then the children are counselled to realise the importance of family bonding. The children are placed in their home. In this stage, the community to which the child is reintegrated is motivated to take in charge of the child welfare. The feeder areas are identified and provided community based care for the community of the children. Through this care, the community is empowered socially and financially which prevents the new comers.

## **1.2 The Context of Project Implementation**

### **1.2.1 Location**

Salem district is bounded to the north by Dharmapuri district, on the east by Villupuram and Perambalur district, to the south by Tiruchirapalli and Namakkal districts and on the west by Erode district. The district head quarters are located in Salem. The Salem district continues to be one of the leading District which employs children for various labours like: handloom, powerloom, silver chain factories, brick industries, auto mobile mechanic and hotel industry. Child marriage is still prevalent in the district. The Salem city is a junction point to travel to Tirupur and neighbouring state namely Kerala and Karnataka. For employing child labourers in these areas, many children are trafficked from Salem.

## **1.3 Complementary programs in the project area**

### **1.3.1 Child Line**

We initiated child line (1098) a toll free telephone Service in the city of Salem. It is 24 hours free phone reach out service. Child line is great help in contacting the child who comes to the street and those children who need our care and protection. Just like the contact center it will be 24 hours emergency phone service for children in difficult circumstances. We will be serving as the collaborative organization for Salem city. The Ministry of Women and Child Development supports this program. This is a helpful project for the street contact and any child in critical position. Child line provides protection, Medical aid, security and safety.

### Beneficiaries in the year 2005 – 2006

S.No	Particulars	Total
1	Medical assistance	015
2	Shelter placement	130
3	Home Placement	069
4	Rescued children	005
5	Missing Children Information	158
6	Counselled	075
7	Refer to other NGO	063
	<b>Total</b>	<b>515</b>

#### 1.3.2 American Jews World Service (AJWS)

This program focuses on child labourers in the weaving sectors. Salem is well known for the spinning mills. Many child labourers are employed in these sectors. In association with district administration the child labourers are rescued and rehabilitated through this program. The rescued children are enrolled in the formal schools. To prevent the child labourers the community is empowered through the Community Based Organizations.

#### 1.4 Policy of the Government

##### Education to All (SSA)

The Indian government had introduced a policy called Sarva Shiksha Abiyan (SSA) to make all the children educated. Article 45, says, free and compulsory education should be provided to all the children below 14 years. 1.5 lakhs teachers are appointed under SSA and fund is allotted to construct 5 lakhs classrooms. If we compare this fund with total budget, only minimum percentage (nearly 2%) is allotted for education.

##### 1.5 Possible Limiting Factors

1. In the budget (2006-07), the government doesn't allocate any fund for the issues like unemployment, agriculture and education which are the prime issues of the people in Below Poverty Level (BPL).
2. The rescue process of bonded labourers slow down because both the government and the affected people are not aware of the type of bonded ness.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 Objectives for the reporting period**

1. To form the child protection cell in the operational areas in order to prevent street children.
2. To form children parliaments in all the operational areas.
3. To provide vocational training to the community.
4. To provide community based care in the feeder villages.
5. To strengthen the federation to handle the social issues.

The first year of the project phase started with the above objectives. Now at the end of the year we realized that all the objectives are achieved. The child protection cell has been formed in all the areas and they are assisting in the rehabilitation process. To empower the community and to provide an employment opportunity, the young men and women were provided with vocational training. The federation started taking up issues on their own. The following chapters will give the detailed information about the activities and achievements.

### 3. Activities and Output

#### 3. (A) Programme for Street Children through Community Based Organizations

##### 3.1 Rehabilitation activities for the Street Children

##### 3.1.1 Child Rights Protection Centre ✓ I

The Child Rights Protection Centre in Salem is working for the runaway and trafficked children. The working experience in Namakkal highlights the need of a centre to prevent the child trafficking. So a new Child Protection Centre is established in Namakkal bus station. This centre is working during the day time. In future, it will function for 24 hours.

##### 3.1.2 Activities of the child protection centre

- Identify the run away and stranded children.
- Providing counselling to the run away and stranded children.
- Run away children are placed in their home or in shelter according to their need.
- Providing temporary shelter to the new comers.
- Immediate intimation to the parents of the run away child.
- Identify the feeder villages and to develop rapport among the street children's community.
- Restoring the children in their houses and their parents are counselled.
- If the identified child is a child labourer, the particular child is admitted in the school or makes the parents to enrol him.
- Organizing CBOs in feeder villages.
- Providing permanent shelter for the children those who are orphans.
- The home placed children are followed up regularly.
- The children those who don't have safety and security in their home or shelter are produced to the child welfare committee.
- Creating awareness and organizing against child trafficking.

#### Beneficiaries in the year 2005 – 2006 (Salem and Namakkal District)

S. No	Particulars	Number of Beneficiaries (Salem)	Number of Beneficiaries (Namakkal)
1	Children contacted	433	77
2	Home placement	195	16
3	Shelter placement	27	-
4	Children assisted financially through support group	144	-
5	Counselled	67	61
6	Missing children Information	78	-

The above table reveals the rehabilitation activities done by the Child Rights Protection Centre. In that 195 in Salem and 16 in Namakkal are placed in their home either directly going to their home or informing their parents to come to Anbu Illam. In this process the centre analysed that many children are away from their place during the month of June. Because, that is the time of school opening.

### **3.1.3 Child Protection Cell (Support Group)**

The child protection cells are formed in Railway Junction, bus stations and in feeder villages. The child protection cells in railway junction and bus stations consist of volunteers from different departments like drivers, conductors, shop owners, hotel owners, public telephone owners, auto drivers and police personnel.

### **3.1.4 Activities of the Child Protection Cell**

- Identify the run away and stranded children and refer them to Child Protection Centre for their rehabilitation.
- The Cell members help financially for home placement.
- Child Protection Cell acts as the monitoring committee on child rights.

### **3.1.5 Achievements**

- The child protection cell helped 144 children to reach their home safely.
- The exhibition was organised in the child protection center. The members of the child protection cell gave the awareness to the people in the bus stand regarding child trafficking.
- In the beginning of this academic year, the child protection cell, have enrolled 39 students in the schools. And also they have given them their educational materials like, school fees, uniforms, note books, stationery items.
- The child protection cell discusses every week with the child protection centre the ways to identify the missing child, and the ways to placing them in their homes.

## **3.2 Shelter services**

### **3.2.1 Preparatory shelter**

The shelter was opened in the year 1997 and it is located at the foothills of Yercaud. The children referred by the Child Protection Centre and Child line are taken care by this home by providing food, accommodation, clothing, recreational facilities and formal or non-formal education. The children are accommodated for a period of one year and send to rehabilitation shelter.

### Children in the preparatory shelter in the year 2005 – 2006

S. No	Particulars	Number of Children
1	Home placement	18
2	Enrolled in formal school	15
3	Children in non-formal education	14
4	Referred to other shelter	06
5	Higher studies	08
6	Children returned home	12
7	<b>Number children sheltered in the year 2005 – 2006</b>	<b>72</b>

#### 3.2.2 Educational activities

- ↻ The children are provided education through formal and non formal. Formal students are 15. Non formal students are 14.
- ↻ Every day special coaching is organised for all the students especially for the weaker students.
- ↻ Introduction to science and technology seminar was organised
- ↻ English competition was organised. (speech)
- ↻ Life education classes were organised.

#### 3.2.3 Physical activities

- ↻ Every day yoga and exercise is organised.
- ↻ Sēminar on good health is organised

#### 3.2.4 Social activities

- ↻ Seminar on child labour is organised for the students
- ↻ Basic human rights day was celebrated by the students on the day of the death anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar.

#### 3.2.5 Spiritual and moral activities

- ↻ Weekly thrice boys have Holy Mass.
- ↻ During the mass many of the social concepts were brought to the knowledge of the students.
- ↻ Weekly four days they have meditation.



### 3.2.6 Skill development

- ↻ Life coping skills were organised to the students
- ↻ Every week drawing class and competition is organised
- ↻ Courses on personality development were taken.
- ↻ Mind mapping skills were taught.

### 3.2.7 Recreational activities

- ↻ The students went for the film show namely, IMSAI ARASAN 23<sup>rd</sup> PULIKESI, our boys enjoyed the show
- ↻ Shelter students went to dream land water Game Park. They were taken by the students from Holland.
- ↻ Shelter students went to Pulluthikuttai dam. There the friendship day was celebrated.

### 3.3 Rehabilitation shelter

The children from the preparatory shelter are promoted here who need further care and protection. The students are placed in regular schools or technical institutions, depending on their capabilities. The shelter home prepares the children, to stand on their own. The activities are as follows:

- Providing shelter and basic amenities.
- Providing formal and vocational education.
- Providing vocational guidance, for job placement.
- Providing education on health and hygiene.
- Recreational and medical facilities are provided.
- Periodical counselling for the children and their parents.

#### Educational status of children in rehabilitation shelter in the year 2005 – 2006

S. No	Education	Number of Children
1	Class VI	09
2	Class VII	06
3	Class VIII	01
4	Class IX	08
5	Class X	12
6	Class XI – XII	02
7	ITI	01
8	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

### **3.3.1 Educational activities**

- ✓ The shelter wardens visit all the schools once a week to follow them up in their studies
- ✓ Weekly test is organised every Sunday
- ✓ The students are trained to read and write without mistake.
- ✓ Every day one boy has to tell the information related to science, history and general knowledge.
- ✓ English grammar classes had been organised for the senior boys.

### **3.3.2 Skill development**

- ✓ To be creative in their thinking, classes were organised.
- ✓ Training on the folk arts, playing music instruments were provided.
- ✓ Children parliament meeting conducted regularly, routine election and the change of different responsibilities and the leadership qualities were done.
- ✓ Karate classes were organised regularly. This year five of our students, have got black belt.

### **3.3.3 Psychological development**

- ✓ During the holidays the children are sent to their houses. There they experience the family bonding, love and affection
- ✓ Once in a month the children visit the old age home and help them.

### **3.3.4 Spiritual and moral activities**

- ✓ Every day they have got group prayer in the morning and in the evening which make them more close to god and also be morally good in their life.
- ✓ Senior boys are counselled by the director to get help and guidance for their moral life.

### **3.3.5 Physical development**

- ✓ Every morning the children go for running to make the day energetic and enthusiastic.
- ✓ Every evening they play games like volley ball, foot ball, and square ball. As a result of this the children participated in the school sports competition and got shields.

### **3.3.6 Camps**

- ✓ Medical camp was organised for two days. In this camp the children are given exposure on dental care.

- ✓ One day medical camp was organised in association with Chellapa hospital. Now all the shelter boys know their blood group.
- ✓ During the summer holidays the children are given training in personality development, leadership, time management and life coping skills.
- ✓ Scout camp was conducted for the children in Sithar koil.

### **3.3.7 Recreational activities**

- ✓ To break the monotony of life, they have a day outing every month to nearby places like, Hogenekal water falls, Mettur dam, and Amaravathi dam.
- ✓ They visit Amala Anbu Karangal and participated in their competitions and won the prizes.

## **3.4 Community Based Care for Street Children**

### **3.4.1 Operational areas**

In the process of rehabilitation of the street children, we have learned from our experience that, we have to concentrate on some areas from where most of our students run away from home. So after a long survey we have identified three important places in the Salem city.

- 1) Marakadai street
- 2) Vellaikuttai
- 3) Adikaripatty

### **3.4.2 Issues addressed in the operational areas**

- ✓ Marakadai Street: The people who live in the Marakadai Street were living near the railway track. Now the government is broadening the railway tracks. So, the government officials have asked the people to quit the place. Now they have no place to live in.
- ✓ Vellakuttai: In vellaikuttai, people are living in the houses, which were built by the slum clearance board. Now at present, these people are living without basic facilities. For example, no proper water supply, their houses are leaking etc.
- ✓ Adikaripatty: Usually the people who live in Adikaripatty are drunkards. These people go for work, and spend all the money in drinking. They are living in the below poverty line. Because of this, they are unskilled.

### 3.5 Present status of CBOs

#### 3.5.1 Children Parliament

**Status of children Parliament**

S.No	Operational areas	Number of Groups	Number of Members
1	Marakadai street	01	18
2	Vellaikuttai	01	16
3	Adikaripatty	01	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>54</b>

#### 3.5.2 Achievements of the Children Parliament

1. In Marakadai Street, the children parliament members submitted petition to the Collector demanding alternative residence. Because their residence had been displaced by the railway department. Now they have got homes in the housing unit.

**Children enrolled in schools in the year 2005 – 2006**

S. No	Operational Areas	Total
1	Marakadai street	16
2	Vellaikuttai	11
3	Adikaripatty	09
	<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

### 3. (B) Programme for Working Children through Community Based Organizations

#### Operational Areas

##### 3.1 Salem Urban

In the urban areas of Salem, there are seven zones, each containing two or three villages. In the following seven areas the rehabilitation works for the child labour is going on.

1. Chinnama palayam
2. Annadhana patty
3. Kallikadu
4. Kicchi palayam
5. Sanyacikundu
6. Narayna nagar
7. Pacha patty

In all these operational areas the majority of the people are dalits. Since they are dalits their rights are prohibited and also they don't have proper work and they are working for daily wages. These people are working in the following sectors such as, street vendors, rag pickers, scavengers, cobblers, domestic servants, weavers, and road making. Because of these problems, they are not able to educate their children. Since their children are not educated, they turn into a child labour. The child labours are working in the following sectors such as, hand looms, power looms, scavengers, rag picking, cobblers, domestic servants, weaving, dyeing, rope making, silver chain making, auto mobile mechanic shops and quarries.

### **3.2 Salem Rural**

In the Salem rural areas there are two zones, which contain two or three villages. In the following two areas the rehabilitation works for the child labour is going on.

1. Neermullikuttai
2. A. N. Mangalam

In the above mentioned operational areas the majority of the people who live in are the dalits. The people in these areas belong to the Arundadhiar and Adi-Dravida community. These people work under the agricultural sector and spinning mills. And they are also working for the daily wages. Since these people are not educated, they involve their children also to this kind of work. The works such as, feeding the cattle etc.

### **3.3 Namakkal District**

In Namakkal District, Anbu Illam has four zones where most of the children are child labourers. The operational areas are:

1. Marigangani street
2. Kottai Colony
3. Periapatti and
4. Naduppatty.

In all the operational areas the majority of the people are Dalits belonging to the communities like Arundadiar, Adi- Dravidar and gypsies. Most of the people are working as unskilled labourers in the following sectors such as, lorry body builders bore well unit, cattle grazing, and band playing. Since they are unskilled, the people get low wages and they are not treated properly.

### **3.4 Issues Addressed in the operational areas**

- In these operational areas the majority of the people are dalits and they are below the poverty line. They are paid very low wages due to their unskilled nature and also they get only temporary jobs. Those unskilled parents sent their children to work as child labourer for their livelihood. So their right to education is denied. As a result of this they become unskilled labourer. The owners exploit these working people by paying them low wages to the work done.
- In the rural areas, there are certain issues that hinder the youth group taking an active part in the local body election, namely Casteism. The high caste people do not allow the youngsters to participate in the local body election.
- In Namakkal, the youngsters are mostly bonded labours. They are paid low wages and even in this half of the amount is taken by the land owner as an interest for the amount given to the family. Due to this the family live in poverty.
- In Salem urban, most of the children are working as bonded labourers in rope making industry and silver chain industry. Due to the family condition young girls are indirectly compelled to go for some jobs. In their work place they are exploited sexually.
- The youth in these areas faces many atrocities from the police personnel. These atrocities are directed towards these youth because they belong to dalits community. The police department has a soft corner on the other caste people. The politicians in the local area utilize the workforce of the youth for their political activities. The politicians keep them in the state of intoxication.
- Another alarming problem is female infanticide. The male dominated society considers that female child as a burden to the family and society.
- The family situation of the children turns them to become child labourers. Most of the children work because their parents are unskilled, paid low wages, unemployed or depend on seasonal job. In the working place the children are facing many problems both physically and mentally from their owners.

### **3.5 Rehabilitation activities for working children through CBOs**

#### **3.5.1. Enrolment of working children in Formal Schools**

The people's federation are made aware of importance of education. This awareness and motivation leads the People's Federation to identify the child labourers in different sectors. The People's Federation pass the resolution in their meeting announcing their area as child labour free zone. Due to this, in the year of 2005 to 2006 they enrolled 223 children in the formal school.

### Children Enrolled in schools in the year 2005 – 2006

S. No	Operational area	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Salem urban	89	68	157
2	Salem Rural	08	04	12
3	Namakkal	29	25	54
4	<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>223</b>

In the previous year the number of children enrolled was 396. But this year it has come down because of the efficient work done by our federation and Children parliament. The people are aware of the importance of education so they themselves enrol the children in the school. So our work has made an impact on the people. The above table shows, the effective work of the people Federation. The Federation takes up the issues of child labour and works towards protecting the child rights. Thus the problem of Child Labour has come to a limelight and as a result, the drop outs from the schools have decreased and the children are able to attend the school regularly.

#### 3.5.2 Children Parliament

In the previous project we had Child Rights Club in all our operational areas. But now it has been transformed in to Children parliament. The Children Parliament functions same as the national Parliament. In the Parliament they identify the Social Problems in their areas and come out with different suggestions to encounter the problem. In order to rectify the situation they also pass resolutions in the parliament and give it in Black and White to the government officials. They also follow up the issue till some action is taken on the same.

#### Status of the children parliament in the year 2005 – 2006

S.No	Operational areas	Number of groups	Members
1	Salem Urban	18	360
2	Salem Rural	8	160
3	Namakkal	8	160
4	<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>680</b>

#### 3.5.3 Achievements of the Children Parliament

1. Salem Urban – In Indhra Nagar, one of our operational areas, the Children Parliament took up the issue of getting the land deed for the poor people of that area. They gave petition to the Collector and made a demonstration in front of the Collector's office.

2. They participated in the School Enrolment Campaign that was conducted in their operational area. They also helped in other neighbouring villages. Because of their invaluable help they were able to identify the children of their own age who were not going to the school. With the help of the Federation they were able to enrol many children in the Schools.
3. In the parliament they passed a resolution to repair the electrical lines in Ceylon Colony and they were able to achieve what they wanted.
4. In Namakkal, in order to rescue the bonded labours and to rehabilitate them they passed a resolution in the Parliament and also took up the issue to the Local Administrative Body. They also gave a petition to the District Collector.
5. In Namakkal the Children Parliament passed a resolution to rescue the Children working in lorry building industries, bore wells, poultries and hotels. They send a petition to the District Labour Office and District Collector.
6. During the season of Deepavali the Children Parliament went around campaigning against the fire crackers that creates mass pollution and also the crackers that are the result of child Labour.

#### **3.5.4 Training Camps for the Children Parliament**

- A seminar was conducted to infuse in them a thorough **knowledge about the Children Parliament.**
- Through play way method the Children were taught to **identify the Social Problems** and the measures to be taken to rectify the social issues.
- The children were taken to a nearby place as an exposure to get a clear idea about the Children Parliament.

#### **3.6 Young Men Groups**

The youth are the backbone of a country. They have so much potential that they can achieve what they want. But in our operational areas it was not the case. Since they were Dalits they were treated as slaves by the other caste people. They were not able to come out and achieve anything. But now due to our presence they are able to come out of their slavish mentality and at present they are fighting for their social rights. They have joined the People's Federation and they are able identify the problems of their society and find solution to solve the various social issues.



### Status of the Young Men Groups in the Year 2005 – 2006

S.No	Operational areas	Number of Groups	Members
1	Salem Urban	17	280
2	Salem Rural	5	75
3	Namakkal	6	100
4	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>455</b>

In the previous phase the no. of groups were 23 and the members were 207 but now we have got 27 groups and 440 members. Thus it shows that the people are now enlightened and they are able to stand on their own in order to fight out the various social problems of their areas. The growth is significant and gradual. The federations are taking roots very deep in the various operational areas.

### Educational status of the young men group in the year 2005 – 2006

S.No	Education	Salem Urban	Salem Rural	Namakkal	Total	Percentage
1	Illiterate	61	17	18	96	21
2	1 – 5	67	13	23	103	22.63
3	6 – 8	89	27	32	148	32.52
4	9 – 12	41	13	20	74	16.26
5	12 and above	22	5	07	34	7.47
<b>Total</b>		<b>280</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>100</b>

In the above table we can see that many youngsters are illiterate. The main reason for that is the problem of Casteism. The youngsters are not given opportunity to study. Their parents are also unskilled. Thus they are not able to support them in their education. As a result in our operational areas we are going for the alternatives like issuing of Driving Licence to them and also sending them for various trades like plumbing, electrician, motor mechanic, etc.

### 3.7 Young women group

The situation of our young women in our areas is very pathetic. They are at a greater risk than the other groups in the society. Being a girl their lives are always in danger. And much more when they are dalit girls. In the society even the men are at danger being a dalit. They are always treated as slaves. And in the case of young girls it is worse. They always face the problem of sexual exploitation. In the working areas they are sexually man handled and ill treated. Their life always hangs by a needle.

### Status of young Women Groups in the year 2005 – 2006

S.No	Operational areas	Number of groups	Members
1	Salem Urban	16	210
2	Salem Rural	5	35
3	Namakkal	6	72
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>317</b>

Due to the above said problems the young girls are afraid to come out and they get married at an early age in order to escape the evils of the society. As a result many parents don't want a girl child to be born to them. Thus the problem of infanticide has peeped in our society. But after creating much awareness through the people's federations today many women are feeling secure. They are able to fight for their rights. Thus the participation of the young women in federation is prominent.

### 3.8 Women Groups

Women groups are taking an active part in the activities of People's federation. It is they who are in front to fight for the rights of the society. They lead by their example and thus we have many women taking part in the people federation.

### Status of Women Groups in the year 2005 – 2006

S. No	Operational areas	Number of groups	Members
1	Salem Urban	38	760
2	Salem Rural	12	192
3	Namakkal	13	221
4	<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1173</b>

The women are able to group themselves to form a federation due to the past experience that they have in forming the self-help groups. They are able to understand the concept of federation easily. Thus the number of women participation in the federation is high and very powerful.

### Savings of Women Groups

S.No	Operational areas	Amount Saved in Rupees
1	Salem Urban	7,20,000/-
2	Salem Rural	75,000/-
3	Namakkal	2,45,000/-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,40,000/-</b>

Since they have Self-help groups the saving mentality is much higher compared to the other groups in the society. They are able to save lot of money and thus they are able to stand on their own. They don't depend on others for their economic security. They are able to start trades on their own and are able to get income from that. They are also able to send their children to the school.

### 3.8.1 Peoples Federation for Social Justice

In the initial stage we had two federations one for the youth and one for the women. But now it has been clubbed together as one federation called People's federation. They came together and chose a Leader, Secretary and Treasurer. They have representatives from each area. They have their own by-laws.

- Once in a month meeting of the representatives.
- Voicing out for the Child Rights and human rights.
- Raising against the ill-hearted
- Fighting for the land deed
- Working out for a better education in the Government School and also demanding of schools in areas where there are no schools.
- Took up the issue of rescuing the bonded labour and rehabilitating them.

### 3.8.2 Achievements of People Federation for Social Justice

- The People's Federation actively participated in the dalit meeting and discussed in length about the land issue. Every man needs a space to live in. Unless he has got a land he can't survive. So the people federation took a stand in fighting for the land to the landless.
- The people's federation highlighted their problems and submitted to the person who stands in the election. And they have also got the signature from the nominee. They also proposed that, if the nominee fulfils their desires then only they will vote for the person.
- The people of Indra Nagar, for their land of ownership (Patta) they protested in front of the collector's office. Nearly 300 members of the people's federation participated in that.
- The people's federation have given the petition to the collector regarding the rescue of bonded labours and the rehabilitation work for them, under the **Right to Information Act 2005**. Here the bonded labours have accepted themselves as bonded labours, and also they have given the acceptance letter to the district administration.
- 52 bonded labours and 30 rag pickers (women) have registered their names under the unorganised labours organization.

- In the district of Namakkal 12 bonded labours are released this year. And we are giving them the band instruments for their rehabilitation.
- The people federation is actively participating in the PTA association, in the schools. They expect standard education to their children, proper roads, toilet facilities in the schools, and a playground for their children.
- In today's world the disease AIDS is killing many lives in their areas. So the people's federation is giving the awareness programmes in their operational areas regarding AIDS.
- The people's federation have learned the folk arts of their local area, and performing awareness programmes regarding the child rights and human right issues.
- In the beginning of this academic year, the people's federation, have enrolled 223 students in the schools. And also the people's federation have given them their educational materials like, school fees, uniforms, note books, stationery items.
- In Narayana Nagar, 30 students joined in the non formal school and they have passed in the eighth standard.
- The people's federation have organised eye and blood donation camp and 30 members of the people's federation have donated their eyes and their blood.
- In the Ceylon colony 300 people gave the petition to the collector regarding their problems like, ration shop and water facility.
- The people, who work in the hand loom, had the problem of thread. Because the government has increased the taxes for the thread. The people's federation protested against this problem, in front of the collector's office. Nearly 3000 people took part in it.
- The people's federation took part in the life coping programme for the dalits. 150 people participated in that; they have also put forward the following resolutions.
  - Separate place for the dalits in the private sector
  - Right to land ownership for the dalits

### 3.8.3 Training and camps for Peoples Federation members

- ❖ In the camps like, **Social Responsibility and the Leadership** seminar was organised for the people's federation. The leaders from Salem, Namakkal, Yercaud, Coimbatore and Tirupur took part in that training programme.
- ❖ In today's situation, the **Importance of the People's Federation** seminar was organised, to the federation members.
- ❖ **Sex Education and Gender Equity** seminar was organised to the federation members.
- ❖ The programme was organised to the federation members regarding the **Local Body Administration**.
- ❖ The people's federation took part in the seminar on the **Right to Information Act 2005**.
- ❖ According to the law, the **ways to rescue the bonded labours and the rehabilitation** training programme was organised to the federation members.
- ❖ Entrepreneur training to the federation members was given.

### 3.4 Training and camps for the Staff members

- ↻ Seminar on the **People's Movement and Politics** was organised.
- ↻ **Bonded Labour Rescue and Rehabilitation** seminar was organised.
- ↻ **Folk arts'** training was organised.
- ↻ The **ways to eradicate the Child trafficking and sex exploitation** seminar was organised.
- ↻ The staff members took part in the seminar on the **Right to Information Act 2005**, and also in the local body administration.
- ↻ The staffs went for the exposure visit to Thumkur- Karnataka and our staffs came to know the works that are organised for the dalits in Thumkur. This was organised by REDS.

## 4. Organisation

### 4.1 Changes in the Organization

From the month of June'06 the management team has been changed. Fr. Xavier, Director replaces Fr. Rayan and Fr. Noel Raj Administrator replaces Fr. Christuraj.

There is a change in the approach of the Child Rights Protection Centre. Previously the run away children are provided institutional care. But now the community also made to involve in the prevention and rehabilitation process.

### 4.2 Networking with other NGOs

- Institutions like Amala Anbu Karangal, YWCA, and good shepherd give temporary shelter and rehabilitation services to street and run away girls who are referred by the Child Protection Centre.
- Missionaries of charity home give shelter for the physically and mentally challenged children.
- Child line, which is part of our organization, lends helping hand round the clock to rescue and rehabilitate children in distress.
- The police personnel, Child Welfare Committee and Government Observation home are always ready to give legal advice and protection for the children.
- We are networking with schools like St. Patrick for admitting the drop outs and street children in the operational areas.
- We are networking with Chellapa Hospital for the treatment of our shelter boys and also children from the operational areas.
- To provide vocational training on Four Wheeler Driving and Mechanism for the street and working youth, we networked with Chamundi Driving School. 105 young men have undergone training in the school.
- We networked with 9 tailoring centres to provide training for the young women. 120 young women are attending the tailoring course.

## **4.2 Vocational Training**

### **Introductions**

In all the operational areas, we found that the majority of the youth are working for low wages, because of their unskilled nature. In order to empower the youth socially and economically vocational training are provided to them.

#### **4.2.1 Basics in electrical and painting**

The interested and committed youth are selected in the operational area. The trainer will go to their place and conduct the training in the evening. 62 youth attended and benefited through the electrician course. The candidates are provided with certificate and basic tools needed for an electrician. 21 youth benefited through the painting course and they also provided with the basic tools.

#### **4.2.2 Tailoring**

To empower the young women, tailoring course has been organised for them. We have tied up with 8 tailoring centres in Salem and Namakkal. 120 young women are benefiting through this training. They are provided with the tailoring materials and cloth materials. All these young women got a tailoring machine from the government under the scheme called, THATCO.

#### **4.2.3 Four wheeler driving and mechanism**

In association with a driving school, we organise training camp four wheeler driving and mechanism for the youth. Through this 105 youth are benefited ad they got an opening for their employment. All these 105 youngsters have registered their names with their name in the government employment office.