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LOVE KIND & SERVICE CENTRE

Thiruppainjeeli post, Mannechanallur Taluk
Tiruchirapalli District, pincode : 621005;
Tamilnadu, S.India

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NOTES FOR REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE ACTIVITY:

The purpose of the child labour education project was to provide basic education to selected child labourers and thereby ensure that they were equal with normal students when they join the regular schools. This will also give them a chance to enjoy their childhood fully.

Thiruppainjeeli is a rural habitation situated 25 kms. from Tiruchirapalli in Tiruchirapalli District. A semi arid region, the local population depend mainly on agriculture for their livelihood. Because of the nature of the soil they are able to cultivate only one crop per year. As this does not provide them with enough money to support their families, many of them also work in the synthetic gem cutting industry. Another reason for villagers selecting this form of employment is because they have a lot of time on their lands as farming operations take place in the mornings.

The Synthetic Gem cutting industry also prefers to operate in rural areas as labour is available and cheap. Workers are willing to work for any wage which thereby helps the industry owners to earn more by spending less.

with villages surrounding Thiruppainjeeli having a minimum population of thousand each child labour accounts for 10% of this population. Due to poor wages offered, children also forced to work to earn for the family.

2. METHOD OF ACTIVITY:

The project involves starting a special school for child labour children employing 3 teachers in three villages including Thiruppainjeeli. The project also plans to approach Government officials to provide skills based loans to child labour family to off-set the income they lose when they send their children to special schools. At the same time an awareness programme on the evils of child labour will also be undertaken through interpersonal inter actions, street plays and puppet shows to enable Parents of child labourers to understand the problem.

As children up to 14 years will be selected teaching them basic skills in education will not be difficult. The one year course on completion will ensure the participants integration in a regular school, in a class compatible with their learning skills. After integration they will be followed up by the field staff to see that there are no dropouts. At the same time Government's loan assistance will be encouraged, so that more children are weaned away from labour related-activities.

selected Children will be taught for 4 Hours each morning from 09.00 A.M. so that they are free to work in the evening. This will be allowed till the government loans are sanctioned as otherwise, the childrens' families may suffer if their additional income from them is suddenly stopped. If loans are not given during this period it could lead to parent's opposition to their education as for their earning takes priority over education.

3. ACTUAL EVENTS:

The Project proper started in June 2006 by the LOVE KIND & SERVICE field staff selecting a total of 106 children for the 3 schools at Thiruppainjeeli, vayalneiveli and Kavandampatty, while 35 students each were admitted to vayalneiveli and Kavandampatty Schools 36 children were admitted to Thiruppainjeeli school.

Love Kind and ServiceCentre field staff undertook an awareness campaign on child labour through street plays and puppet shows the three villages from April End. The children were selected based on their poor financial conditions of the families. Meanwhile three buildings were rented out in the target villages and they were provided with tables, chairs, benches and charts. Three teachers and three helpers were also hired for the project.

The project started on Nove 1, When a meeting was held in all three schools involving teachers, students and parents. As Government loans sanction was slightly delayed, parents were assure that the loan would be available soon. To encourage more parental support, the children were promised a mid day vegetarian meal every day 5 days a week after classes. The programme was continued without much problem as the Government gave milch animal loans to 106 families as it was an agriculture related activity. Disposing of milk was no Problem a milk society in Thiruppainjeeli purchased milk from all three villages.

Both the vayal Neiveli and Kavandampatti around six students who failed to attend classes for two days due to their inability to concentrate were given counseling by the field staff and brought back to school. The school children each provided slates and two months later Note books. Text books were provided based on their students I.Q.

The project ended in October 2002. With the students being given no break for summer. However as regular schools start only from June, L K S C Field staff are taking informal classes for 2 hours every evening to maintain students interest.

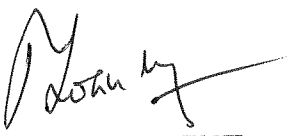
4. ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Project succeeded as it provided basic education to 106 child labourers. But starting the project in November on receipt of funds from the donars has resulted in Love Kind and Service Centre having to shoulder though financial burden of conducting evening classes for the beneficiaries for the next seven months till, all can be admitted to regular schools.

5. FUTURE TO BE PURSUED:

The project can be continued for the more child labour if further funding from the donars is possible. However Government loans for other activities also need to be encouraged as future beneficiaries may not opt for raising animals. Efforts will have to be taken to see that loans are sanctioned quickly to continue parents encouragements.

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