

## **PROJECT ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 2005-2006**

***Dear ItaliaIndiaInsieme team members and sponsors, - III***

On behalf of III sponsored children, the project staff and management, we take this opportunity to greet you and your family and to tell you something about our project and its various activities, which help to develop our sponsored children in particular and their families in general.

Our project was started in 1989 as an affiliate to III in 2005 and at present, we have a strength of 113 sponsored children most of the children come from fishermen families that have little or no income, semi-orphans and children from Tsunami affected. Our project branch office is situated about 56 kilometers from Chennai, the capital city of the state of Tamil Nadu. It is a coastal area and chief occupation of the people is fishing. Ours is a Non-Governmental organization (NGO) and we have a very active Governing Body consisting of people who are specialized in various fields and who assist us to a great extent in the planning and implementation of various programmes for the benefit of these children and their families. We have also a strong leaders committee made up of representatives from among the people of the area and we enjoy a close rapport with the people and have their whole – hearted participation in helping to / uplift themselves socially and economically, with III help, through their sponsors, these families are able to achieve so much for their own betterment.

With the help of III sponsorship funds, we have implemented various programmes for the total development of the sponsored children and families.

### **CHILD SERVICES:**

#### ***Education Related Activities***

Association is Help Harvest ensures that educational facilities are provided for children right from pre-school stage and until they complete High School, on completion of High School the Children are encouraged to continue college education for graduation.

### ***PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES***

The Project Association of Help Harvest supervise at present 8 Govt. Aangan wadis 25 children (Pre-Schools) catering to the needs of children between the ages of 2 ½ - 5 years. These schools help to inculcate in children the habit of going to schools regularly. After the Pre-School age, the project ensures that these children are placed into regular schools to continue with their education. The average strength in each school consists of 32 children, both boys and girls.

### ***TUITION CENTRES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL***

Every day in the morning and evening 10 tuition centers provide facilities for school children from pre-school, to 5<sup>th</sup> std, to help them by providing for coaching them in subject in which they are found to be weak. In this way, children are helped to pass their grades thereby cutting down / minimizing on failures. Nearly 650 children are benefited from this programme. (Ill Children- 113, Siblings- 350, and remaining Non-Ill children.

### ***COACHING CLASSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL***

Tuition classes through 3 centers ensure that high school children are provided tuition classes to enable them to pass their secondary school leaving certificate (S.S.L.C). On the completion of S.S.L.C they are encouraged to go for higher studies by joining the +1 courses the total No. Of children benefited 125.

### ***LANGUAGE CLASSES***

English coaching classes are arranged by the project at the school level twice in a week. These children are Tamil medium they are unable to read and write and are very beneficial to these students (sponsor children / siblings and non sponsored children.) Since English is the international language and it is essential that children learn the international language not only for academic reasons but also later for the purpose of higher education opportunities.

### ***Parent, Teachers social workers Association***

- ❖ To ensure that children attend school regularly and are keeping up with their studies, a separate association has been involved consisting of parents, teachers and social workers. (Parents, Teachers, social workers association). In this way, the progress of each child through out the academic year is being constantly monitored and we have a very high percentage of passes and our drop – outs from school are practically nil.

### ***SUMMER CAMP***

Every summer the project conducts camps for the children in order to develop their talents and to inculcate in them qualities like leadership skills self-confidence, values etc, and also to create awareness regarding health and hygiene. The III children are encouraged to participate “Cultural / Educational tours”. To educate recreational facilities and cultural activities, educational tour to historical places, Indian dances, music and other entertainment etc., are arranged /encouraged for the III sponsored children at the project / school levels and annual sports and games competitions are held. Nearly 21 III sponsored children got prizes in the various activities/competitions.

### ***EDUCATIVE MATERIALS, UNIFORMS:***

All the III children and some other poor children received stationery, school fees, note books, Books and guides, school uniforms, Shoes, color dresses etc.,

### ***HEALTH RELATED ACTIVITIES:***

Regular specialized health camps have been conducted in various fields like on general health, dental, De-warming etc., every III sponsored child has been given a through medical examination and blood grouping has also been done. Medical examinations are also carried out right form the pre-school stage. Free medical treatment and other facilities have greatly benefited them in helping them to regain their normal health.

Nutritional food is provided for all the III children, aunganwadi children, their siblings and expecting mothers who are weak. Health education and nutrition education programmes time to time awareness has been given to child, family and community regarding personal and community hygiene prevention of diseases, better child care, superstitions beliefs, natural family planning, AIDS awareness etc.

We are actively involved in the government immunization campaigns for children and mother.

Worked for the protection of environmental/ tidal weaves and local resources and have encouraged people to plant trees new by houses and coastal side villages.

### ***VOCATIONAL TRAINING:***

A Vocational training courses both technical and non-technical for both boys, girls and women, educated and uneducated. This has proved very beneficial in so far as it has enabled us to equip our III sponsored children, their siblings and parents with job oriented trades like tailoring, type-writing computer, printing handicrafts etc., that has enabled many of them to secure gainful employment thereby being a great support to their families.

### ***ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:***

- ❖ Family counseling / family budgeting services are provided and families are encouraged.
- ❖ So far we have organized 20 SHGs (Self – Help Groups)
- ❖ Vocational courses like tailoring, type writing, other hand works
- ❖ We have received financial support to purchase of boats, repair of boats and nets under non – sponsorship programme from III. Nearly 113 families benefited from this programme.
- ❖ Helped 35 people to secure loans from banks and other financial institutions rather than from moneylenders.
- ❖ By helping these people become self-sufficient we are also helping them to increase their monthly income, to enjoy better living conditions and health conditions and encourage them to save for their future.

### **ACTIVITIES RELATED TO WOMEN:**

- ❖ Mahila Mandals – women are organized and brought together to create in them an awareness of their position in family and community life. Regular meetings have been conducted village wise and each group has its elected members.
- ❖ The project has given a number of trainings to women on mother and child care, leadership panchayat Raj, genders issues, family planning, nutrition's food, importance of breast feeding, free legal education and on other health related aspects.
- ❖ Training programmes on self – employment is given and supported them financially and also helped them to secure financial support from the Govt and other NGO's
- ❖ The women have been made aware of the various programme, they have expressed their views with regards to the starting of certain programmes, which are unable to include in the budget. Since we are already doing various activities. Some of their suggestions:
  - ❖ Home for the children (Project submitted to III)
  - ❖ Center / office building for various activities (approached III)
  - ❖ Scholarship for higher education / professional / technical education
  - ❖ Youth clubs Children's Club
  - ❖ Voluntary blood donor Association
  - ❖ Life insurance for III children and Vehicle.

### **ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

The project (AHH) with the collaboration of the people and with the financial support of the III has worked to purchase and distributed boats, repaired 10 boats and nets, and 35 houses during the flood and cyclone period and also with the promise of III the association of help harvest did relief work during continuous flood / cyclone time provided provisions for each family .20 kegs of rice, oil, dhall, kerosene, utensils etc for 100 families.

We are sure that III will have a better idea of our project and our people on going through this report and we take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of sponsored children / parents and the project for all the kind assistance that you have given your sponsored children there by enabling them (to get good education, medical treatment, food, clothing, specialized training, thereby helping them to become self supportive and a credit to the families and community in general and to the country in particular by growing up to be useful citizens.

Here let us say a special '**THANK YOU**' to III team members and sponsors, for your kind and generous help extended to your sponsored and for joining hands with us in helping our poor and needy people.

With warm regards and best wishes.

Yours truly,

***Lawrence YL.***

***DIRECTOR***

***ASSOCIATION OF HELP HARVEST***