

Community Transformation through Children



During any disaster, Children and youth are the most vulnerable.

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However, they have their own potential and perspective to reduce the risk of disasters in the community.



Pulliyur is a remote village in Kanchipuram district of Tamil Nadu, which was severely affected during 2015 Tamil Nadu floods. With a population of 1162 people, 249 belonged to the Dalits section. Caritas India provided humanitarian assistance to 333 families during the flood.

Udhayam (Dawn) is an Eco-System Based Disaster Risk Reduction program launched in Tamil Nadu to mobilise community into groups to focus on environmental factors that lead to the emergence of disasters and try to prevent it by promoting, restoring and conserving ecosystems and natural resources.

Since children are the most important change agent just like other community members, their participation and contribution towards disaster risk reduction is very crucial. Children's Parliament gives children that opportunity to voice their ideas, thoughts and feelings so that their opinions can be heard and included in the socio-political landscape. Moreover, it gives them the platform to create a movement of their own to fight for their rights. It is a step towards making children more active and responsible citizens who are vigilant towards their rights and security.

Disaster Risk Reduction awareness was given to members of Pulliyur through PRA tools by the field worker of Chengallpattu Rural Development Society. Self-help groups, Children's Parliament, youths were the targeted groups for this awareness programmes.

Children's parliament that was formed provided the children with enough space to discuss various issues and problems not only of their village but of global environment.

Children parliament groups of Puliur village namely Iyarkay (Nature) and Thulir (young leaf) were given awareness programmes on Health and Sanitation. They were facilitated to assess the number of toilets available in the community, a rapid assessment tool was given to the Children to find out the households having toilet facilities and not having this facilities.

The survey conducted by the children parliament observed that 20 households had adequate toilet facilities while 40 houses got toilets sanctioned by the government. However, 189 households didn't have toilet facilities and were not aware of health and sanitation issues. The work of the children in the community was highly appreciated by the heads of the village. Apart from this children were motivated to save Rs. 5 every week to address their educational and health issues in the community especially the neediest children.

By listening to the children's views and giving them a platform to participate in disaster risk activities, their capacities are being acknowledged while it also inspires them as well as other stakeholders to support them and use their help towards a better and a resilient community. And the children of Puliur village is definitely inspires all of us.

Prison Computer Classes Offering New Hope



“Computer is the largest and fastest growing technology both required in supply and demand market” this statement sounds very common when coming from an aspiring youth who is interested in learning computers. But, it sounds more challenging when a prison inmate shares this.

Ajju, a 37-year-old prison inmate of Central Prison of Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India is more passionate when he shares who had recently completed 3 months diploma course on Computer Literacy under Saksham (Competence) project. There were five batches that were conducted during the time period of 6 months.

Imprisoned for 12 years, he is still in the prison, but now he had learnt computers and supports prison authorities by helping them with any work assigned to him.

“He is an inspiration for other prison inmates and after his release he can accomplish more in his life” expressed Asst. Prison Superintendent. Working hard and committed to the core, Ajju had exhibited good behavior in the prison and spending his time in mostly productive work.

“Whether to get employment or earning, my interest to learn more has brought me to the vent of earning and earned a reputation of computer genius among prison inmates and prison authorities. He had learnt computer basic startup, cleaning viruses, installation of new programmes, internet explorer, CD writing, scanning, photocopy settings, basic steps of Photoshop and image processing.

The computer literacy program was sponsored by Caritas India with the financial support from

Caritas Italiana, an Italy based organisation working for the integral development of ' men, social justice and peace, with special attention to the poor.

The programme had provided a platform the implementing partner Sagar Diocesan Social to meet prison inmates personally and giving counselling. The training program has enhanced the knowledge and skill of 150 inmates like Ajju. At present prisoners are also involved in word processing, printing and scanning including image processing in Photoshop etc. The programme not only instilled confidence and attitude but also enhanced their self-image among other inmates.





Smallholder Farmers representation at the block level

Pradipta Chand, Zonal Thematic Officer

More than 400 farmers from Smallholder Farmers Forum (including Dumuria, Saraikela-kharswan, Gumla and Simdega) as well as block authorities and different departments held a discussion on the learning experiences and issues related to small farming practice.

The block level farmers consultation also included representatives for farmers, Block Development Officer, Block Agriculture Officer, Block Technical Manager (Agriculture),

Block Veterinary Officer, Prakhand Pramukh and Pranchayat Samittee Adhyask.

The objective of Farmers forum is to work with block authority and tap schemes and provisions designed for smallholder farmers.

There is an urgent need to provide package of initiatives for transfer of farmers' friendly technology, improving input use efficiency, promoting investments in agriculture and creating a favourable and enabling economic environment.

It was proposed that if the representatives of implementing partner and farmer's forum are included in the block monthly planning meeting, the farmers can make use of this information to spread the same with other farmers in the block.

Block Development Officer suggested to include more farmers to the forum in the meeting and also invited to jointly organize Kisan Mela next year.

