

Palmyra's Approach of Assisting the Tsunami-hit Fisherman Community in Anumandhai Kuppam through formation of Women Self Help Groups

Progress Report as of December 2005

INTRODUCTION

- The tsunami affected fisherman community people from the Marakkanam Block of Villupuram District approached Palmyra to assist them for rehabilitation work to improve their livelihood and earning capacity under the Palmyra-DIK project.
- Palmyra suggested them to form an association among the Tsunami affected people to identify their immediate needs and to continue their fishing activity with participatory approach.
- Palmyra further suggested that if 30% of contributions towards their total request would be deposited into a bank account Palmyra/DIK would put 70% as their contribution. This total amount will be utilized to fulfill their immediate needs of purchasing new nets, repair boats & engines in order to restart their fishing activity.

OBJECTIVES

The foremost objective of the formation of a people's institution among the tsunami-hit affected fisherman community is to restart the fishing activity in order to earn income, improve the livelihood and live a normal life again.

Before the formation of the Self Help Groups (SHGs) discussions were held with the affected people.

- In Anumandhai Kuppam villagers decided to form 2 women SHGs under the Palmyra-DIK project to create additional assets and to guide and monitor as well as evaluate ongoing professional performances and general activities.
- Subsequently 2 Women SHGs, comprising of 40 women in total were formed in March 2005. One group is named as "**Alaiyosai**" – (Sea wave sound), and the other group is named as "**Kadalparavai**" _ (Sea Birds).
- A PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) exercise was conducted by Palmyra with all concerned villages on 4th April 2005 in order to obtain information on types of houses, available boats & engines, available village infrastructure and also to obtain information on village traditions, their history and information on individual age & completed education of the villagers. 40 women members have their own 20 wooden boats, 14 fiber boats and 3 Launch boats. 2 to 3 families jointly are using one boat.

Fisherman families who use the big Launch boat stay 7 days in the deep sea to catch big size fishes and prawn. People who use the fiber boat are staying 3 days in the sea to catching various bigger and smaller fishes. Wooden boat users catch fishes only early in the morning not far from the seashore area.

- All women members participated in a one day workshop on “Viable Activity Identification” at Palmyra Centre. They identified a 3 wheeler – Pick up van to be purchased and used for selling fish in the nearby marketing towns.
- Two three weheelers have later been obtained with a 50% grant of the Government and a 50% loan from the Indian Bank.
- These SHGs are being trained by Palmyra to maintain Minute’s book, Savings, Credit, Cash & General ledger with Bank Pass book.
- The two women groups decided that on a priority basis new nets of different varieties should be purchased. For this purpose a group was formed and in May 2005, they, together with Palmyra, went to Chennai and bought 40 sets of new different nets. Each net weight is 35 kg (Rs.260/Kg) worth of Rs.9100/-.
- **CONSTRUCTING MODEL HOUSE BY PALMYRA UNDER DIK PROJECT**

The village panchayath donated 1500 Square Feet of land in the village to the SHGs to construct a model house as envisaged by Palmyra.

The building construction work was carried out by the Auroville Earth Institute. The construction work started in the month of July and was completed in October 2005.

The two SHGs will utilize this house from January 2006 onwards for keeping their records, conducting meeting and trainings etc. The model house can be copied and or modified by the govt. authorities or by the fisherman communities themselves according to their needs.

SOME DOCUMENTARY PHOTOS



Raw net purchased from Aswan Fish net Company – Kattu Valai



Three families jointly put their nets in to one bin and proceed with the coloring process



Another Type of net: Nethili Valai



Completed Net – Ready to use



Net Distribution Function held at Anumandhai Kuppam Village on 7th June 2005



A Model House for Anumandhai Kuppam SHGs - under Construction



Fish Transport Vehicles purchased by Anumandhai Kuppam SHGs under the DRDA-SGSY scheme released by the District Collector



The District Collector handing over the vehicle keys to the SHG Executives at a function held on 27th July 05 at Anumandhai Kuppam village



Office Bearers Meeting



Colored Nets are drying



The finished Model House Constructed for Women SHGs in Anumandhaikuppam Village with a distance of 300 Meters from the seashore
(Entrance Facing towards North)



The Model House with toilet and water tank above

DIK / TSUNAMI RELATED EXPENDITURES

For Model House	Rs.173000
For Two SHGs for Nets and fishing activities	Rs.258200
Support of Education for Tsunami affected Children	Rs. 56800
Special request of one individual family with destroyed house	Rs. 25000
Additional Tsunami related expenses	Rs. 37000
Total	Rs.550000