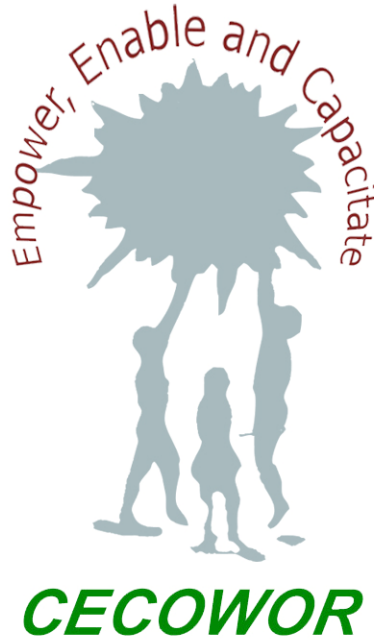


ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012



Literary education is of no value, if it is not able to build up a sound character.

~ Mahatma Gandhi

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1. Introduction:

CECOWOR (centre for coordination of voluntary Works and Research is a not for profit, apolitical organization established in the year 1989. Its services are for everyone, irrespective of gender, creed, caste, class or ethnicity. It is registered under the Society Registration Act 1975 in the year 1992. Registration Number is 58/92. CECOWOR is also registered under the FCRA division of Ministry of Home affairs. It is also an approved NGOs of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, Tamil Nadu Government.

Vision

Witness a just society for the underprivileged, especially for women and children

Mission statement:

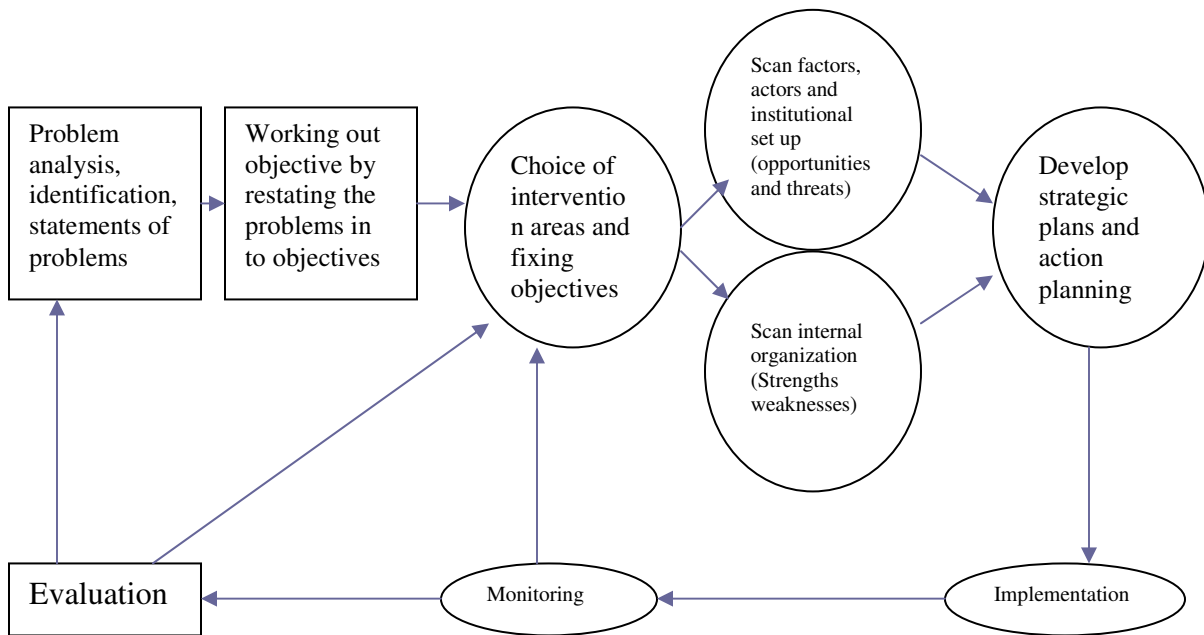
Empower, create an enabling environment and capacitate for the liberation and development of marginalized people like women, children, low caste and other rural poor.

Encourage maximum people's participation so that they have better control over their life and enjoy the benefits of combined strength and spirit".

Programs focus:

1. Promotion of literacy, basic education and General knowledge.
2. Child rights promotion and Prevention of child abuse in any form.
3. Develop life skills, livelihood opportunities and self help self reliance.
4. Strengthening civil society, capacity building and advocacy for participative democracy, good governance, human rights promotions and poverty alleviation
5. Work for quality of life among Dalits, tribals and other marginalized groups like Gypsies, Washer men, Bamboo basket weavers, Potters, quarry workers, migrant workers etc. with special focus on women and children.
6. Capacity building of target groups on ICT and motivation for maximum utilization of ICT for the human rights promotion and poverty alleviation.
7. Cross cutting issues are Gender equality, cultural understanding, environmental protection, Sustainable changes.

Methodology



2. Target Population and the background:

Children, Women, Tribal, Gypsies, Dalits and Other dehumanised sections in Gingee Taluk of Villupuram district are the priority target population of CECOWOR.

District	: Villupuram
Taluk	: Gingee
Blcoks	: Vallam, Melmlayanur and Gingee
Villages	: 181 villages and 439 haitations.

Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu is surrounded on East and South by Cuddalore District, West by Salem and Dharmapuri District and on the North by Thiruvannamalai and Kanchipuram District. At present Villupuram district comprises of 1490 Revenue Villages, 4 Revenue Divisions, 8 Administrative Taluks, 22 Blocks, 15 Town Panchayat Unions, 1104 Village Panchayats and 3 Municipalities. Villuppuram district has a total population of 2960373 (as per 2001 Census), of which males account for 1492442 and females account for 1467931. The Urban population according to 2001 census is 426917 and rural population is 2533456. The density of population of the district per sq. km. is 410. The people are primarily agrarian. The Literacy rate of Villupuram District is 64.7 %(male 75.5% and for female 52.5%) compared to the State figure of 73.47% in the year 2001. The dropout rates are recorded as 40.39%. Total number of children at the age group 0-6 is 373175 (Male190257 and female 182918)

CECOWOR office is situated at Gingee town. Gingee is located 150 kilometers south west Chennai the state head quarters.

Gingee is a town of about 25,000 people 150 km south west of Chennai (Madras) in the state of Tamil Nadu in South India. Our offices are in the town but we do most of our work in the surrounding villages, where we work with marginalised and exploited groups like Gypsies, Tribal people, Dalits (untouchables), women and other rural poor.

Economy

This is a particularly backward area with few opportunities for employment. 90% of people in the villages depend on agriculture, but very few own any land. They have to work as day labourers for the land owners and earn very low wages. Lack of skills, unemployment and poverty are serious problems of target group. Ignorance about their life and surroundings makes them much more disadvantaged and prone to exploitation. Due to lack of job opportunity and appropriate education many young people are unemployed

Education

There is a high rate of illiteracy among the groups we work with. Parents cannot afford to send their children to school and often keep them at home to work or look after young ones. Some of the children have to work for debts of their parents. There is no training at all for those who drop out of school. Those who passed 8th and 10th standard are not able to afford admission to a technical school, a teacher training school college or other colleges.

Lower Castes

In this area roughly a third of the people are low-caste (Dalits). All forms of discriminations like prohibitions to public services like water tanks, schools and clinics, forced labour menial works, abuses, atrocities, physical violence are very common in this area.

Women

Low caste women are twice discriminated in the system both by the high caste people and by the male dominated society.

3. Activities and programme

1. Education support programme for the children of widows:

200 children (children of widows, orphans and children of abandoned wives) were ensured dignified childhood and opportunity to get school. Their low self estimation was replaced by self confidence and high motivation. It rescued them from abusive and discriminative situations.

Children home run by CECOWOR ensured three time meals, shelter, reading facility, care for the 25 male children and 25 female children were supported to stay in hostel specifically run for the girls. Same like last year support to buy books, note books, school uniform, and stationeries and to meet out the school fees expenses was extended to these children. We were able to collect local contribution of Rs.63, 000 from children 5 children as a hostel fee.

150 children of widows stayed at their homes but needed support for school fees and related expenses were given support.

These children are with low self esteem so three one day awareness and motivation trainings were organised this has been helpful in build their self.

The following Government schemes are facilitated to the widows:

- Poor widow's remarriage assistance of rupees 15000 for 1 widow
- Marriage assistance for 9 daughters of widows Rs.15000 each
- Supply of sewing machines for widows for 11 widows worth Rupees 8000.
- 2 widows were supported to defend their legal heirs rights of their husband.



Group of boys home children with Rune Christopher, ACA, Denmark

This year the rights of the children formed the major part of the training the discussion covered all the four important component of children rights Right to Survival, The Right to Development, and The Right to Protection and right to Participation

II. Informal Education centres:

a) Supplementary education

Dropout at the 10th grade result in discontinuation the studies mainly because the children cannot repeat the year instead they have to stay home prepare privately and reappear for the exams. This will result in problems like child labour, street children, early marriage and abuse etc. this attempt is to combat this evils affecting the children by providing informal supplementary teaching on important and difficult academics subjects and motivate them to continue their studies.



Tailoring centre at melmalayanur

In the year 2011- 2012 three following are the beneficiary children:

Places	Children			
	Male	Female	Total	% of pass
Avalurpet	19	24	43	55.8
Melmalayaur	21	23	44	61.3
Gingee	15	16	31	89.2
Total	57	63	118	

b) Vocational skills trainings the following are the beneficiaries in the trainings.

- Computer training at Gingee- 31(15 female)
- Tailoring centre at Avalurpet- 23 girls
- Tailoring centre at Melmalyanur- 27 girls.



Computer training at Gingee

c) Information and career guidance has been continues activity through out the year.

d) Capacity building General education 4 days will be devoted to each of the following trainings

The following are trainings organised for the informal education centre students

Topics	Day 1	Day 2	Day3	Day3
Human rights and basic laws	UDHR And CRC	Juvenile justice act	Issues in protections of children and their rights	When faced with abuse or rights violation. Childline 24x7
Democracy and civil society participation	Societal systems	Indian democarcy	Parliament, Judiciary and executives	Civil participation and panchayat institutions
Environment	Environment and food cycle	Problems of environmental pollutions	Reduce, reuse and recycle	Methods to be environmental friendly at the children level
Self confidences building and motivation	Social analysis	Knowing oneself/Self doscovery	Self development	Leadership skills

:

III. *Preschool centres and after school clubs*

Early childhood care and education to the children below six years and organising after school club activities for the 6-12 years children are the major aims of the program.All the following are the centre in Gingee:

Locations In Gingee	Number of preschool children		Number of After school children		Total	
	male	female	male	female	male	female
Sirukadammbur	12	15	15	16	27	31
Sakkarapuram	11	13	12	15	23	28
Periyaram.	14	15	14	16	28	31
	37	43	41	47	78	90

80children (43 are female) children of age group 3-5 years were given clean and safe day care services with snacks. Meetings the physical, mental, social and emotional and growth needs of the young child were the centre point of the activities. Play way methods and joyful full learning has been the methods. 88 children of age group 6-12 years (out of this 47 are female children) benefited out of the after school programmes.

31 pregnant mothers were given training on postnatal and prenatal care and care during pregnancy and at various stages in the child's development. 150 Parents were given training on positive parenting. Information was given on the schemes and child welfare activities of the government.

All the 31 pregnant mothers were facilitated maternity assistance of Rupees 6000 each from the government. Linkages were made with the primary health care centres to administer regular vaccinations. Two mothers who have undergone family planning after having two girl babies availed Rupees 25000 for each baby under the female baby assistance scheme of the government. These amounts were kept as long term deposits in the name of the babies.

IV. Ensuring equal and quality education for poor children:

We run Dream child school in very remote village called Aniladi. The children from Dalit low caste, tribal cobblers, quarry workers, washer men, bamboo basket weavers, landless agricultural laborers and other dehumanized social groups. They are discriminated for generations hence they are given priority in the admission in to the school. Quality education both in terms of accessibility and affordability is made possible for these children. Acquire adequate working knowledge in English and basic computer skills is important part of the curriculum.



Children
perform yoga
at Function

The school has successfully completed the third year. The possibility for the rural children to get a quality education is no more an unrealizable dream and this has been fully affirmed after ACA, Denmark has decided to support the project. The support from ACA had been just on time which has increased our confidence and hope in facing the challenges in reaching out the poor children with quality education. Many schools want to be located in towns and cities where the affluent sections are living but our school is an exception and it is a first of its kind to go the remote poor villages. It is seen as a ray of hope of better future for the children in the region

The approach: When we say quality education it means facilitation of well rounded child development with global values, excellence in every thing and coexistence with culture and nature. So we not only had given importance to academic performances but to build the character, values etc. After the summer vacation the school started on the 15th June 2011.



At the
annual day

Number of children: The children came from 16 villages around the school. The total number children studied last year is 254 out of this 110 are girl children. Number of children in each standard is shown below:

	Male	Female	Total
LKG (lower Kindergarten)	42	42	84
UKG (Upper Kindergarten)	38	27	65
1 st Standard	24	15	39
2 nd Standard	16	9	25
3 rd Standard	10	6	16
4 th Standard	8	6	14
5 th Standard	6	5	11
Total	144	110	254

Note: the cumulative number of children enrolled since the beginning of the school is 319.

Timings: The school timings are from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm and the school functioned for 220 days as per the government regulations and the last working day was 20th April 2012.

A school day

8:30 am	: Children start arriving and they are supervised in playground
9.15 am	: Morning assembly
9.30 am	: Class room session 1&2 each for 45 minutes
11.00 am	: Interval
11.10 am	: Class rooms sessions 3& 4 each for 45 minutes

12.40 pm : Lunch break
 1.30 pm : Class room sessions 5 & 6 each for 45 minutes
 3.00 pm : Games, sports and playing
 3.35 pm : Departs to home



At the morning assembly

- The activities in the morning assembly includes, "Tamizh thai vaszthu" (invocation to goddess Tamil), Common prayer or meditation, Reading "Thirukkural" (Thirukkural (or the [Kural](#)) is a collection of 1330 rhyming Tamil couplets organised into 133 chapters. Each chapter has a specific subject ranging from "*ploughing a piece of land*" to "*ruling a country*"), Thoughts for the day note by teachers or students, National flag hoisting (only on every Monday), National Anthem, Important news from the news paper, General instructions, Birth days wishes for the children (if any).
- Small children studying LKG and UKG take their lunch at 12 noon and rest or nap until 2 pm.

Staff: Totally there were 12 teaching staff and five non teaching staff. Except the headmaster and two of the non teaching staff all the others were female members in the staff.

Syllabus and teaching method: The school followed the Samacheer kalvi (equal syllabus to all) curriculum which has been made compulsory by the government. Besides this some of relevant extra subjects were also taught.

Subject	LKG	UKG	1 st Std	2 nd Std	3 rd Std	4 th	5 th Std
Tamil	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
English	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mathematics	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Science		√			√	√	√
Environment			√	√			
Social sccience					√	√	√
Hindi	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Value education			√	√	√	√	√
Computer			√	√	√	√	√
General knowledge			√	√	√	√	√
Drawing	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Music and dance	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Sports, games and play	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

The student centered teaching methods has been given priority were the teacher is facilitating the learning in easy and enjoyable way. The following are the some of the methods used:

- Activity based teaching.
- Showing real material or articles (i.e. grains, flowers etc) and using models .e animal real.
- Using simple experiments.
- Teaching from the environment and surrounding.
- Play way method
- Teaching through group activity and brain storming.
- Using music, dance, songs, Story telling, role play etc.
- Audio visual, Maps
- Interactive video programmes



A group of children taken to Gingee fort

Weekly meetings were arranged for the teachers for effective coordination amongst the teachers and learn from each others experience and quarterly one day trainings were organized to refresh the skills of the teachers. Every week the teachers prepared notes of lesson and after the end of the week they evaluate their own achievements in reaching the children in line with the notes of lesson.

Parent's teacher's relationship:

- Parents were always felt welcome and friendly relationship was maintained. Their suggestions were taken in consideration and their questions were answered properly. Parents were given feedback about the children growth and development.
- Parents observing the school days were organized once in every 3 months wherein some of the parents follow the whole school day and give their comments.
- Parents' teachers association has been effectively functioning wherein they were involved in the decision making and in conversations about, and resolutions of, issues (i.e. discipline, conflict resolution, safety, curriculum changes, etc.).



Children at the play system provided by ACA, Denmark

Celebration of Festivals and observation of days: All religious festivals, cultural festivals were celebrated at the school and national and international days of importance were observed. This gave the chance for the children to know about the religions they not familiar with and to realize their diversified culture. The children enjoyed these programmes very much. Some of the days are;

Independence Day
Republic day
Pongal festival
Christmas festival
Children's day
Teacher's day
Ramzan
Deepavali

Visitors:

Assitant Educational Officer : Mr.R. Ramachandran vallam
District Educational Officer` : Mrs. Padmavathi
University students from Japan
Vallam Panchayat union Chairman: Mr.Annadurai
Tasildar : Mr. Kumar

Other activities:

- Child line: The parents and children were given information on the child helpline
- LWN (Letters, Words and Numbers): Some of the children who found very difficult even to identify the letters and numbers were given special attention and training. Through this method they were given training to know the letters, words and numbers, and to do simple reading and simple arithmetic on a regular basis.
- Japan university students: 14 Students from Japan University have participated as volunteers in the school. They used music, dance and play materials to interact with the children this has been very enriching and exciting experiences for the children.
- Herbal and medicinal plants: 150 varieties of medicinal plants, ornament flowers and plants nurseries were raised near the school and children were given chance to know by touching and feeling them mainly to develop love for nature.
- Exhibition: Children exhibited chart presentation, drawings etc on the walls and the boards of the school on their learning at school. The community and the parents were invited to visit at them.
- Scholarships: 17 eligible children were facilitated scholarship from the government.
- Picnic: The children from 2nd to 5th standard were taken to Gingee fort on one day picnic.
- Sports day: Sports day was organized to identify the talents of the children in sports and game and all the children were given possibility to show their special talents. We made it sure that all every child gets some prize.

As we have expected there is ever increasing number of children want to join the school and the community involvement is much ensured. It is well received by every stake holder. There are some real challenges before us in the coming they are:

- Adequate building and infrastructures, furnitures etc to accommadte the increasing number of children.
- Compound wall (as per the government stipulated norm).
- Provision Safe drinking water and sanitation facilites.
- Sports and games facilities and equipments.
- Language lab Computer teaching center and equipments.
- Library facility for the children and teachers.
- Transportation facilities for the children and the teachers.

BIG thanks to ACA for participating in the project through funding..

V. Children sponsorship:

Totally 34 children were supported through the sponsorship support from ACA Denmark. 14 of the children staying in hostel were supported with school expenses, uniform, books & note books, stationery items and also boarding and lodging expenses to stay in a hostel. 20 children studying from home have been supported with school expenses (annual fees, monthly fees, exam fees) uniform, books & note books, stationery items etc. Besides this Danish India child care (DICC, Denmark) specially supported 30 poor girl children with educational supplies like books, note books, uniform, school bags and school fee.



30 girl children
sponsored for
education

VI. Educational Support for Tribal and Gypsy children:

- 275 children were given school bags, note books, uniforms and educational material.
- 35 children (were motivated and facilitated to enroll in schools and 17 dropouts were facilitated to re-enroll in schools.
- 3 Informal education centers are functioning in the villages providing the facilities of supervisory studies and help with homework and educational entertainment. Social education, leadership and self confidence building trainings are also conducted from these centers. The centers were organized at Almapoondi, Melmalyanur and Chokkanaanthal villages total 123 children benefited. As a result of functioning of the centres children are more regular in attending school than before and also their performance in the school exams has improved.



Fire victims'
emergency help to
two tribal families

Gypsy children from two locations i.e. MGR Nagar and Kalaiyur have been given the following educational supports



Education support to Gypsy child

- 57 children were given school bags, note books, uniforms and educational material. 5 children were motivated and facilitated to enroll in schools.
- Continues motivation and counseling to the parents and the children was given.
- Edutainment, social education, leadership and self confidence are also conducted for these children.
- Facilitated scholarship from Gypsy welfare board to five children.
Other welfare measures facilitated to the Gypsies.

VII. Women Development Programme

Poverty alleviation and social empowerment among women through self help group methods are the two major aims of this program. We work in cooperation with Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of women Limited, various departments of government and Banks to realize this aims. The major cooperating nationalized banks were State bank of India, Indian bank, Punjab national banks, Indian overseas bank and cooperative banks at various levels

Under these scheme 547 women self help groups for women below poverty line have been managed during the year. They were facilitated with loans and revolving funds. Links were made to government departments get benefits from the trainings and from the schemes

These SHGs also have functioned as pressure groups to initiate changes, take up issues of common concern and defend the rights of the members in the village level.

VIII. *Child line programme*

i) Cases intervened during outreach:

	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Types of calls												
I. Interventions												
Medical help				1								
Shelter				7	2					1		
Repatriation								1		1		
Rescue											1	
Death-related												
Sponsorship					5	6	4	4	3			
II. Missing children					1							
Child lost												
Parents asking help												
III. Emotional support and Guidance						1		1	1		3	5
IV. Others							1			1		
Did not Find (DNF)												
Total				8	8	7	5	6	4	3	4	5

ii) Issues discussed during the meetings:

- Identification of High risk area coverage
- Corporal punishment in school
- Identification Child labour
- School dropouts
- Malnutrition in children
- Identification documents for Tribal and Gypsies children
- Migration children
- Identification of Begging children area

iii) Awareness programmes conducted:



School awareness at Neganur village

- School Awareness.
- Village level Awareness..CBOs,
- Awareness to the Self help groups
- Awareness in children homes
- Awareness to Angunvadi workers
- Awareness at Temples –Malemaliyanur temple-(New moon day)
- Awareness at Tourist place- Gingee Fort
- Auto drivers
- PCO owners
- Bus stops
- Health workers
- PRI Members

iv) Grass roots level outreach with children and concerned adults:

Target Group	No. contacted	Nature of outreach	Number of programmes
PCO owners	180	Awareness and orientations	3
Railway station			
Bus stops	650	Awareness and orientations	5
Shelter children	155	Awareness and orientations	4
Cinema halls	-		-
Local market	1250	Awareness and orientations	2
Tourist places	2200	Awareness and orientations	5
Religious places	5500	Awareness and orientations	10
Schools	4500	Awareness and orientations	26
Slums	150	Awareness and orientations	4
SHG Groups- 175 Youth members Community Leaders, Anganvadi workers, Health wokers. Auto drivers,car drivers	4620	Awareness and orientations	

Methods used for awareness includes the following:

Cultural programmes, Streetplay, notice distribution ,group discussion, awareness songs speeches.Meeting,

v) Open house:

Seven Open house programmes were organised, Issues and problems mentioned by the children during open house:

- Corporal punishment in schools
- Child labour / Vending
- Migration Families –Denial of care and protections
- Begging
- Denial of education to girls children
- Sanitation at school
- Basic needs like food & shelter
- ill treatment

vi) Innovations in CHILDLINE:



- Childline '**se dosti**' Rally 2500 children, government officials, Police D.S.P and School Headmasters, teachers have participated in the rally.



- Childline pongal was celebrated in 10 Villages.
- National girl children days was celebrated with SHG in 30 Villages

IX. Other activities

a. CECOWOR has organised the following campaigns

- Child labour eradication campaign
- Breast feeding campaign
- Aids Awareness
- National girl children day
- Compulsory enrolment rally and

All important days like women's day, Independence Day Human rights day, AIDS day, May Day, Child Labour day etc were observed.

b. In cooperation with CONCERT, Chennai training on consumer awareness on food adulteration. Sponsored by Ministry of Consumer affairs, Government of India



Women
participants
of the
programme

4. Challenges and future focus:

- Providing building and infrastructural facilities for the Dream child school and making it as a full fledged school with all basic facilities and faculties.
- Ensure every child in the region equal quality education.
- Ensuring the practical general education combined with some skills for the illiterate to equip themselves to earn living in the global economy.
- Protection of the environment and help with target group to for adaptation and mitigation of global warming.
- Poverty eradication and employment generation among the target groups.

Your Comments, suggestions, advice are most welcome.

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.”
- Albert Einstein

Compiled by M.Susairaj, Director, CECOWOR