March 2009

Development Matters

Monthly Development update from DHAN Collective

Feature

Ensuring Food Security

Vayalagam Experience in Villur

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There is a saying in surrounding villages, "*Vaigai padugai poikkum anaal Villur padugai poikathu*", which means, fields around river Vaigai may go dry but fields around Villur may not go dry. Villur is green all over the year; one or the other crop is grown. No part of the field is left fallow in any season.

Centre for Development Communication
DHAN Foundation
18, Pillaiyar Koil Street, S.S. Colony
Madurai - 625 016. Tamil Nadu, INDIA
Tel.: +91-452-4353983, 2610794, 2610805
Email: dhanfoundation_tn@airtelmail.in
Website: http://www.dhan.org

From the Editors' Desk

Dear Readers!

In this March issue, the feature story is about how Vayalagam programme of DHAN Foundation work for augmenting food security of the small and marginal farmers by securing water availability, improving crop water use efficiency and increasing the amount of rain water harvest. Food security refers to the availability of food and one's access to it. March is a special month for our Vayalagam team as they celebrate their Vayalagam movement day on 7th of this month. And March 8th is women's day. So this issue carries more Vayalagam related articles. Our colleague Vellaiyappan writes about women participation on water bodies' development. Devika narrates her experience during revival of Kochadai supply channel. N. Venkatesan details Tank Based Watershed Development: Lessons learnt from Grassroots Participatory Impact Evaluation. A.Gurunathan and Er. R.Venkatasamy share their experience in fifth World Water Forum held at Istanbul, Turkey. N. Venkatesan narrates the way the Vayalagam Movement day was celebrated. PDM 8 batch students of Tata-Dhan Academy tell about Social Mapping. Muthukumarasamy delights in writing how Community Radio in Kottampatti is on the way to develop grassroot people.

We look for your contributions and suggestions to improve the magazine.

Happy Reading !

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Ensuring Food Security:

Vayalagam Experiences in Villur

K. Amina Bibi*

Food security

The World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as existing "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life". Food security is built on three pillars – food availability, accessibility and use. Agriculture remains the largest employment sector in most developing countries. Right to food is a basic right for all and is an integral part of the right to life enshrined in the Indian Constitution as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Vayalagam programme of DHAN Foundation work for augmenting food security of the small and marginal farmers by securing water availability, improving crop water use efficiency and increasing the amount of rain water harvest. Food security refers to the availability of food and one's access to it.

Food security is possible by three means. First, ***food availability*** is achieved when sufficient quantities of food are consistently available to all individuals. Such food can be supplied through household production, other domestic output, commercial imports, or food assistance. Second, ***food access*** is ensured when households and all individuals within them have adequate resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. Access depends on income available to the household, on the distribution of income within the household, and on the price of food. Third, ***food utilization*** is the proper biological use of food, requiring a diet providing sufficient energy and essential nutrients, potable water, and adequate sanitation. Effective food utilization depends in large measure on knowledge within the household of food storage and processing techniques, basic principles of nutrition and proper child care, and illness management.

At community level, food security is essentially a matter of access to food. Sustainable progress in poverty reduction is critical to improve access to food. Food security is therefore closely linked to the economic and social health of a nation, society and individual. A household is considered food secure when its occupants do not live in hunger or fear of starvation. When poor households struggle to earn bread, Vayalagam gives loans for consumption and food producing activities to enhance food security through encouraging livelihood activities. According to the World Resources Institute, global per capita food production has been increasing substantially for the past several decades.

Any disruption to farm supplies may precipitate a uniquely urban food crisis in a relatively short time. People's organization formed helps the farmers to get farm inputs and marketing their produces through collective trading. The ongoing global credit crisis has affected farm credits, despite a boom in commodity prices. Food security is a complex

***K. Amina Bibi,** Project Executive, Centre for Development Communication, DHAN Foundation, Madurai

topic, standing at the intersection of many disciplines. In developing countries, often 70 per cent or more of the population lives in rural areas. In that context, agricultural development among smallholder farmers and landless people provides a livelihood for people allowing them the opportunity to stay in their communities. In many areas of the world, land ownership is not available, thus, people who want or need to farm to make a living have little incentive to improve the land.

It is an ancient tank, deep in the rural hinterland of Madurai district in Tamil Nadu. A state highway passes on one side of the tank bund. "Earlier water would overflow from the tank onto the road and would get wasted. In the village, the rainfed farmers owning less than 1.5 acre land would have to buy water from rich well-owners for their lands", says S. Sethuraman, pointing to the highway and the lands sloping off below it. "Now, in the two years that DHAN Foundation has been helping us renovate this Villur tank, we actually have surplus during the rains", he says.

DHAN Foundation organised Villur village farmers and landless people to form their Vayalagam. S. Sethuraman is the Vayalagam president. He is a science graduate and farmer who can converse fluently in English. He was instrumental in the building of a higher secondary school in his village. He motivated the Vayalagam Association to clean the three of the 'feeder channels' of the Villur tank. The channels were overgrown with weeds, silted up and to top it was encroached by a few farmers for the last 30-40 years!

The Vayalagam leaders got hold of official land records from the government Revenue office, and got the entire area surveyed as per the records. With the support from DHAN Foundation they exerted continuous pressure on the two farmers who had encroached on the feeder canal and convinced them to give up the encroached land which they had been using for three and more decades.

When asked how they managed to evict such long-term encroachers, Sethuraman says they could manage to do so only because they approached the encroachers as a collective association and not as individuals.

The work on the feeder channels was supported by Oxfam-Novib as a humanitarian support during the floods in that area. The villagers contributed Rs.15,000 worth of voluntary labour during the time this work was done. The bund formation around the tank was taken through the Government of India's Food for Work program. Here they contributed Rs.20,000 to augment the works being done during this period. After a discussion with all the members the contribution from the members towards the work was fixed at Rs.300 per acre of land in the command area. This was unanimously agreed upon by all the members and the contributions were collected. The tractor owners also contributed some amount as they also benefitted by getting work through the Vayalagam for transporting the silt excavated from the tank and using it for application on the lands. The Vayalagam wanted to take up the work of repairing the sluices which had fallen into disuse.

The command area that could be cultivated changed significantly from 25 acres to over 100 acres due to the availability of the water in the tank after all this work was taken up. Sethuraman's 3.6 acres gave an yield of over 40 bags (one bag is equal to 75 kilos) of paddy, up from the 30 bags he managed to get two years ago when the tank did not have enough water.

Villur big tank

Villur Big tank is under the control of the Public Works Department. It was like the mother tank whose surplus fed five other tanks in the village. Due to prolonged neglect and lack of even minimum maintenance of this tank it reached a stage where

the tank got filled only to ¼th or ½ of its capacity. Even during periods of heavy rainfall in good monsoons it never got filled. This led to a situation of the lands in the command area to be similar to rainfed lands. The only crop raised was rice. The first 80 days of the crop utilized the rainwater from monsoon and residual moisture from ground. The last 20 – 30 days the crop would suffer drought leading to crop failure. Only those who had wells and pump sets in their land could save their crops by using the well water.

Four farmers who wanted to change the situation met with the DHAN field teams and appraised them of the situation in their tank. The field team shared about DHAN's approach and the need for the community to contribute 25% of the cost if they wanted to undertake the work. The villagers were reluctant to do so. But these four farmers put in a lot of efforts to convince them to come forward to contribute money and finally collected Rs.25,000 almost rupee by rupee from them. They formed Parivallal Vayalagam association in the village. The amount was deposited in the group account and requested DHAN Foundation in 2004 to take up tank renovation activity.

Ambika said in those days Villur people faced more problems due to theft. There were several incidents of theft of rice, cotton, goats and even groceries due to the poverty and hunger as a result of the water scarcity. It was in this situation that Sethuraman convinced people that "If we could fill the tank with water, the stomach would get filled automatically and there will be no need to steal." It was after a lot of persuasion and discussion that the villagers came forward to contribute a small amount and labour work in the tank. After the work has been completed the often heard comment about this village is "Even if the Vagai river is dry the fields around Villur will not go dry. The fields are green throughout the year with some crop on the other in the fields"

In 2004, renovation work was taken up in the Villur Big tank. The supply channel was cleaned for a distance of five kilometers. Clearing weeds and encroachment were the main activities done for this tank. When the monsoons began after this work, there was no breaching in any part of the tank bunds. The crop cultivation became possible in the entire 350 acres of command area where previously cultivation could be done only in 30 acres. On seeing the impact of the work done in the tank and the successful cultivation of the lands the villagers resolved to clean the supply channel every year. They decided to contribute six measures (*Padi*) of paddy per 30 cents. The collected grains were sold and the money is deposited in Vayalagam common fund and used for renovation activities.

Impact

- The cultivated area was increased from mere 30 acres to 300 acres.
- The productivity of the land was increased by 20% thereby increasing the incomes of the farmers.
- Earlier on the rough varieties of (TKM 9, CR 1009, IR 20) were cultivated and direct sowing of paddy was in practice. Now, many varieties of Ponni of high quality are raised increasing the incomes from the same piece of land. Apart from paddy, cotton, black gram, green gram, sesame and sorghum are cultivated through out the year.
- The number of livestock in the village increased due to the increased agricultural activity which made available fodder for the animals throughout the year. Goat rearing became very profitable for the farmers.
- The land value increased significantly due to the increased productivity and water availability.
- Life and health insurance schemes were introduced through the Vayalagam to benefit their members.

Vengudusamuthram tank

In the year 2005, weed clearance was done in the Vengudusamythram tank. The renovation work done in the Villur big tank resulted in the

water being available in the five other tanks of the village. Desilting, bund strengthening, supply channel clearance works were done in this tank. The cost of the work was Rs.60,000 of which Rs.45,000 was from Oxfam Novib and the remaining was the contribution from the people. Previously, only 20 acres were cultivated with the help of the four wells and pump–sets. Once the work was completed in this tank all the 175 areas of the command area of the tank could be cultivated. This also increased the ground water levels. More than 250 families directly benefited from the work done in this tank.

Vetrankulam tank

In 2006, the supply channel cleaning in Vetrankulam tank was done for about 700 meters. A portion of the tank is still encroached by a road. The major problem in this tank was weak bunds which resulted in breaches even for small rains and water could not be stored in this tank. Bund strengthening was done after removal of weeds in the tank bed. The total cost of the work was Rs.1,00,000 with people contribution of Rs. 25,000. Only 15 families from Villur benefited directly from the work done in this tank. But more than 250 families in the neighbouring villages get benefited out of this tank. Even a summer shower could fill the tank, as the supply channel harvested the rainfall of the entire catchment area. There are four dug wells which are supplying water through out the year. Power-cuts are the only limiting factor for the water supply from the wells to field. One well owner has no land in the ayacut of Villur big tank but is benefitted by the renovation in the tank.

By seeing the development activities undertaken by the Vayalagam in the village, he became a member and is now one Committee members. There is feeling of unity among the villagers and all of them have come forward to create a common fund for the Vayalagam through cash and grains. They were successful in creating a fund to the tune of Rs. 2,00,000. This money is used for the renovation and maintenance of the water bodies and other relevant development works in the village.

Sevalkulam tank

In 2007, Swarnajayanthi Gram Rojgar Yojna (SGRY), food for work was implemented in this village. Work estimated at Rs. 97,000 was completed in Sevalkulam tank. Around 450 meters of supply channel was cleared, 750 meters of bund was strengthened. This work employed 80 per cent of the farm labourers in the village providing the wage employment for them and completing the first phase of Sevalkulam tank renovation work. The second phase of Sevalkulam tank was done subsequently. It involved sluice repair, bund strengthening for 120 meters and supply channel clearing for 50 meters.

Flood management by Vayalagam

There was severe flood due to monsoon rainfall in November 2007. The heavy down pour resulted in the danger of floods in the village. Parivallal Vayalagam group members proactively responded by mobilizing Rs. 5,000 from the common fund and Rs. 20,000 by pledging jewels and valuables of the members. Damages due to the floods were minimized due to timely piling up of sand bags at various weak points to prevent breaching of the tanks.

Fishing made profitable

Sethuraman, who was instrumental in forming the Associations in Villur had an opportunity to visit T. Kallupatti location's Executive Council (EC) meeting. There he happened to hear about fishing in tanks. He was inspired by the concept and discussed with the Vayalagam members. Usually the Villur big tank auction was conducted by the Panchayat and it had never been profitable so no one was interested to take the lease. Sethuraman

motivated the members of Parivallal Vayalagam group members to lease the tank for fish rearing. There was division of labour among the members in work of fish rearing. At the end of the season, there was good harvest of fish and an income of Rs. 27,000. As agreed with the Panchayat earlier, Rs. 7,000 (25 per cent of the income) was given to Panchayat. Out of the remaining funds Rs. 10,000 was used for tank rehabilitation, Rs. 5,000 was used for the chain of tanks activities. The remaining Rs. 5,000 was used for maintenance of tanks to pay for the traditional water managers. The agreement for ten years (2006 – 20015) was signed between Vayalagam and Panchayat in 2006 for the fishing rights. There was successful fishing and profit allocation for the past three years.

The Villur Today

It is an agrarian village in Kallukudi block of Madurai district in Tamil Nadu. The village got its name due to interest of villagers in *Villu* competition. The population of the village is 8000 with 3800 men and 4200 women. Most of the villagers depend on agriculture either in their own land or in others land for wages. There are few (250) Government employees and another 20 people are working abroad.

The village has all needed infrastructure like primary and higher secondary school, electrification, police station, primary health centre, veterinary hospital, banks, and transport facilities. The literacy level is 100 per cent. The village has good number of livestock which serves as livelihood alternative and supplements the agriculture. It is also blessed with water bodies –

eight tanks and six ponds. The supply channels (8.5 kilometers) to the water bodies are maintained well. Proper maintenance of the water bodies and the supply channels facilitates agriculture in 256 acres of dry land, 980 acres of wet land. System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method of rice cultivation is practiced. Crops like paddy, cotton, chilly, vegetables, ground nut, maize are cultivated. All these were possible only by the efforts of the People institutions promoted by DHAN and the support extended by them.

People institutions promoted by Vayalagam in Villur and tank rehabilitation works have brought many families back to Villur. The water scarcity and unviable agriculture made many families to migrate to various places in search of other jobs. Some farmers went to those villages where they could get agricultural works to earn daily wages. Increased water availability has made agriculture viable throughout the year. The crop production and productivity has increased. Tank works have reached every household and made every man to be concerned about the tank renovation, which in turn will decide the crop stand. NABARD officials say Villur is a model village on seeing the impact of the tank works. Muthukamatchi is one among such migrants returned back to Villur.

Villur's increased water availability brought a migrant back

V. Muthukamatchi, a 45-year-old farmer, was skilled to grow beetle vine. As Villur was turned parched, beetle vine cultivation dwindled. This situation forced him and his family to settle in Solavanthan where beetle vine is cultivated. He heard the stories of increased water availability through out the year. He decided to return to Villur. As he owned no land, he decided to lease in 32 cents of land for Rs. 1500 per year for three years. He says, "After tank rehabilitation, our lives are better. We get more man-days to work as agriculture coolie." He compares, before tank renovation, the water stand was low. Non-agricultural works like construction works helped to earn our livelihood. Agricultural works were very costly; more money had to be spent for motor pumps to get water from wells

the entire year. When the tank works are done, the standing water in tank facilitates increases water level in wells. Only when the tank is dry for a brief period, we pump out water with motor at the cost of Rs. 30 per hour. The field is irrigated for four hours per day, once in four days. All these gave good beetle vines harvest.

The second benefit we realize from Vayalagam is timely credit. Beetle vines cultivation needs an initial investment of Rs. 20,000. We had to depend only on money lenders; the interest rate was Rs. 10 for every Rs. 100. Humiliation was more when we failed to pay in time. By being a member of Vayalagam micro finance groups, timely credit is obtained at a lower interest rate. The collegial environment makes us prompt in payment. When tough situations arise, we may delay the payment, but the group understands the situation. Repayment is done at the earliest. Now we get dignified life.

Impact of Tank in Muthukamatchi's field

- After the tank works, water availability in tank is extended. Water is available to field by two means, seepage and irrigation is possible without motor.
- Beetle leaves cultivated with good irrigation fetches better price due to quality than cultivated with deficit water. Price is fixed by farmers themselves.
- Weighing machine available in the Vayalagam is used to ensure right price for the produce sold to merchants or agents.
- Agathi, a plant cultivated as a support crop on which beetle vine climbs. The leaves of the support plant are used as fodder to livestock and it has medicinal properties too. The wood is sold out when it becomes sturdy.
- Moringa is cultivated in bunds. Leaves and its pods (drumsticks) are used as vegetables, domestically consumed and sold in the village.
- Chillies and banana are cultivated as border crops.
- Live fence is cultivated which supplies abundant fodder.

Returns from beetle leaves are realized only after eight months of cultivation. Till that time the other crops gives some remuneration to the family. Muthukamatchi is engaged in one or the other activities in the field. These sales give an income of Rs. 100 per day. Family expense consumes Rs. 60 per day and Rs. 20 is spent for fields and its activities like irrigation. Rs. 20 is the amount used for saved and spent for social obligations and other unexpected expenses.

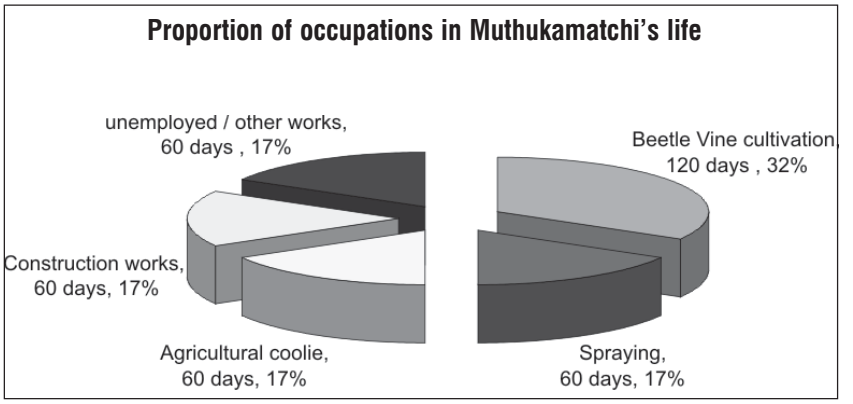
Economic benefits realized

- When comparing the interest they paid to money lenders, the interest they pay to Vayalagam is less. It is considered as money saved. Saving habit is increased.
- The possibility of cultivation of other crops in beetle vine field helps him to get regular income.
- When he is not occupied with his field works, he works as an agricultural coolie. He constructs bunds and land preparation activities. He gets an income of Rs. 120 per day.
- He sprays pesticides in other fields as agricultural coolie. He uses the sprayer of Vayalagam and gives Rs. 10 per day to Vayalagam. He gets a wage of Rs. 110 (120-10) per day. He does this work for around 60 days each year. On an average he pays about Rs. 600 to Vayalagam.
- In summer days, he works as a construction labourer. He prepares the cement mixture for construction and earns Rs. 120 per day. He gets such employment for about 120 days.

His family comprises his wife and two children. His wife M. Pappa (41) is an agricultural coolie (earning Rs. 30 to 40 per day); she now goes for NREGA, earning Rs. 100 per day. Nagajyothi (15) studies in the 10th standard and Ramar (14)studies in the 9th standard.

His occupation trends in a year can be pictorially presented.

Proportion of occupations in Muthukamatchi's life



Food Security is ensured to farmer's families

G. Pandi is a 45 years old farmer. He has studied upto Class 3 and later dropped out due to lack of interest in studies. He was sent to Tanjore as an agricultural labour to earn Rs. 5 per month (in 1974-75). He got trained to do all agricultural works and tending to cattle. After a year of training he was capable of managing the entire farming of the land lord. After few years of work he returned to join his parents in Villur. He got married at the age of 29 to Murugeswari without dowry due to his principle in life.

He got 2.5 acres (1.5 acre of dryland / rainfed and 1 acre of irrigated garden land) from his parents. He also purchased 58 cents of red cotton soil land in Sevalkulam tank ayacut with his hard earned savings. Agriculture is done only in 58 acres red cotton soil and one acre irrigated garden land. Both the lands lie near Sevalkulam tank but they are of different nature.

Apart from agriculture, the family owns six goats, ten hens (country breed). The family is dwelling in a house inherited from his father. As Pandi is uneducated, he wants his children to study well. He admitted all children in school and they are not doing any agricultural works. Pandi takes care of agriculture and his wife takes care of the household and livestock. The income from the agriculture increased from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 11,000. There is regular income from agriculture throughout the year from various crops cultivated in the irrigated garden land. By this he manages his family. Pandi says, "Without the renovation of Sevalkulam tank this income would not have possible. Previously we had to purchase food grains every day, draining our daily income. Now we cultivate the needed food grains for the family. We don't purchase food grains and chilies. It is a big savings for our family." His wife goes for NREGA works to earn Rs. 100 per day on other days she goes for agricultural works earning Rs. 30 – 40 per day. The family comprises of four school going children. The eldest son Senthil Murugan, 15 years old is studying 10th standard, daughter Kalaivani, aged 11 is studying 6th standard, second son, Dakshinamurthi, aged 7 is in 2nd standard and the youngest daughter Annapoorani is 4 years old is doing her Pre-Kinder Garden schooling.

58 cents of red cotton soil	1 acre irrigated garden land
It is tankfed as it lies in the downstream.	It is irrigated using motor as it is located in upland.
Only rice is cultivated (IR 20). It is used for household consumption only. The yield is 15 – 20 bags (72kgs/bag). The entire year's need is met by this yield from the land.	Various crops are cultivated. Groundnut (sells to get money), chillies (domestic use only shares with friends and relatives, Banana is cultivated in 40 cents, coconut is cultivated in the field boundaries.
The field is cultivated only in one season	The field is cultivated throughout the year.

He came to know about Vayalagam in April 2006 and became a member since that period. Since he was proactive and interested in development of Villur, he was selected as President of Sevalkulam Kanmoi association in the first group meeting itself. He got a loan of Rs. 1200 for consumption in the first meeting (April 2006) which he repaid in six months period. His second loan of Rs. 5,000 (October '06) was to invest in agriculture for hiring tractor for land preparation for cultivation, seeds sowing, transplanting, fertilizers etc. He repaid the loan in 10 months. He availed the 3rd loan of Rs. 10,000 for agricultural expenses. On seeing the prompt repayment and proactive initiatives for Villur development by joining hands with Sethuraman he was selected as Coordination committee member of Thirumangalam Tank federation. ■

Women in water bodies development

U. Vellaiappan*

Silarpatti watershed is located in T.Kallupatti Panchayat union of Madurai district. Silarpatti watershed was sanctioned to DHAN Foundation as project implementing agency by the district watershed committee during X five year plan. Silarpatti watershed has presently consists of six farmers' groups (Uzhvar groups) UGs and 13 Self Help Groups (SHGs). This watershed is covered by four villages namely Silarpatti, Gopinayakkanptti, S.Narikudi and S.Narasingapuram.

Silarpatti watershed has many natural gullies and water conservation bodies like oorani and tanks. S.Narasingapuram village has one odai which leads water to thoppu Oorani. This odai helps in many ways to people for filling of water in Thoppu Oorani. Through this Oorani the near by lands with wells gets groundwater recharge and helps more than 1600 animals and villagers for drinking purpose. Hence this is considered as the major water storage body for S.Narasingapuram and Silarpatti village through its benefits of many ways.

Over the years the feeder channel (Thoppu oorani odai) was abandoned slowly and it got heavily silted up and encroached by land holders at the entire length of 750 meters. Hence this odai was unable to lead the water to thoppu oorani and made flow into reverse direction.

Based on this problem majority of the land's top soil were eroded due to improper flowing of water towards slope. So the benefiting peoples from the oorani are facing many problems for consumption of water in the open well for irrigation through recharging and impossible to rear the goats due to facing severe water scarcity.

Execution of Works

So odai user association (Thoppu oorani odai vayalagam) put efforts against odai encroachers on renovation with the help of watershed association. The odai user association consists of 92 women members coming from two villages namely S.Narikudi and S.Narasingapuram. They initiated the **first step** to approach revenue department regarding encroachment eviction. As the encroachers are rich, socially dominated and influenced in local area they could not solve the problem by themselves. They got the original odai size (as per field measurement book) with the help of revenue department. Their **second step** was to collect the money from the members for which they themselves took the initiatives. They collected an amount Rs. 2000 and deposited in Silarpatti watershed association corpus account for ensuring their participation with expecting financial assistance for odai renovation. Their **third step** was to organize the human-power and spent 92 women days to clear the jungles existing in the odai as their labour which could be calculated as an investment incurred at the cost of Rs. 4500.00. Totally 25 per cent of the estimated cost was contributed by above said women members from five SHGs in the two villages.

*Mr. U. Vellaiappan, Project Executive, DHAN Foundation, T. Kallupatti, Thirumangalam Region, Tamil Nadu.

In this work five women Self Help Groups have been participated and executed the proposed channel clearance work with the assistance of NWDPRA fund of Rs. 20,000 and to ensure the water to the oorani for multipurpose. The work has been done during the year of 2004-2005. The participated women groups were

Finally the odai was desiltation and to reform the original odai size by the **active participation of women members.**

The benefit realized through this work

- Access of the water for ground water recharge to near by five open wells.
- Access of the water for cattle's drinking for their primary livelihood.
- Access to increase the storage capacity of this oorani upto six month. Before odai clearance this oorani used only two months.
- Storing the run off water efficiently.
- Prevention of the gully bank erosion in near by lands.
- Prevention of the land erosion because of the overflowing of the run off water in the gully.
- Gender participation is ensuring on water bodies development work.
- Ensured Kudimaramathu murai like Shramadan (The members are working by deputing their human power towards the water conservation with out expecting the wages)
- Women leaders were identified and leading the many developments works. ■

Name of the SHG	Village name	Total members
1. Roja vayalagam kurunidhi kuzhu	S.Narikudi	18
2. Pappathipamman SHG	S.Narikudi	20
3. Thendral	S.Narikudi	18
4. Karuppasamy	S.Narasingapuram	20
5. Mariamman	S.Narasingapuram	16

Community in Action

Reviving supply channel of Kochadai tank

Er. R. Devika*

In ancient days, the local communities maintained tanks by desilting and transferring silt to their agricultural lands every year. Tanks and lakes in and around Madurai, some of them are more than 2,000 years old, were established before modernity directed, technology driven apparatus were invented. Channels and tanks of historic days have turned either become defunct or silted due to absence of maintenance or given place for urban constructions. Madurai accommodates approximately 10.92 square km of area under water bodies. Experts say that, when the Public Works Department (PWD) replaced community management of water bodies, started ignoring the works like deepening of lakes and tanks. Eventually it leads to decline of water bodies.

Degradation results due to encroachments, eutrophication from domestic and industrial effluents and silt. Human settlements and public effluent turned out to make the problem more intensified. Mushrooming of slums in historically significant areas are the root cause of degradation of water bodies. Population explosion and its resultant infrastructure development and encroachments have contributed to degradation of urban water bodies. The surviving water bodies are witnessing widespread decay and decline, mainly due to heavy siltation and inadequate maintenance. Lack of public awareness and active civil society, and governmental indifference all add oil to the fire of degradation. The only solution for this plight would be to create awareness among the public and encourage community participation. Participation of people in watershed management and effective integrated water and wastewater management is essential for giving the resources to the future generations.

***Er. R. Devika,** Project Executive, CURE Centre, DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

Identification of Kochadai tank supply channel:

In Madurai Marathon 2007, we took initiative for protection of water bodies in Madurai. As per data, nearly 38 tanks survived to meet the need of Madurai people. Now some of the tanks turned into government buildings, private institutions and some remains encroached by people. Therefore, we listed out 13 urban water bodies for revival. These tanks were recharging ground water and used for irrigation. Out of these 13 tanks, six tanks are coming under Periyar Vaigai division-1 and seven tanks are coming under the control of Periyar vaigai division II. We visited six tanks and its supply channel.

Simultaneously the memoirs and maps were collected. From the field visit we inferred that all tanks were encroached. With the support of people institution, we gave letter to collector and revenue department for marking the encroachment. They started their marking in the Kochadai supply channel as it was the first tank recommended for revival. For marking, we waited for surveyor's time and often visited his office. Regularly we met Tahsildar and Villlage Administrative Officer for support. The surveyor identified the boundary of Kochadai supply channel. We gave press news for insisting the encroachment eviction twice. Finally, we drafted a letter and explained every process for eviction of encroachment. With the help our programme team, we approached PWD secretary, Chief engineer of PWD and revenue officials. After 10 months, we got No Objection certificate (NOC) from PWD for six tanks.

The entire channel of Kochadai supply channel of 2030 meters was encroached by public residence, school ground, garden, brick chamber, tiles company, shops and etc. So the work ahead to evict the supply channel was a Herculean task for us. We seek assistance for district Collector, revenue department and PWD department. After a continuous persistence of six months, revenue and PWD department people came for survey. It took a week to trace the boundary of the channel. Levelling instruments were used to record the present situation. Estimate was prepared with the help of primary and secondary data collected from revenue department. Estimate was prepared for jungle clearance and desilting of the supply channel of Kochadai tank. Encroachment eviction work was done by PWD and we extended the support to it. Based on the impact of Madurai Marathon 2007, a resolution was passed by Pothigai federation to renovate a water body. Kochadai tank was situated in their operation area, hence it was their piece of cake and they responded with community participation. Leaders joined the process of visiting officials requesting survey and eviction works. All members of the federation mobilised Rs. 25,000 for this work and DHAN gave and equal contribution of Rs. 25,000. This Rs.50,000 was maintained as water funds in the name of Pothigai Vayalagam.

About Kochadai supply channel

Kochadai tank is situated in Kochadai Panchayat in Madurai South taluk of Madurai district. Kochadai tank is a P.W.D. tank and its registered Ayacut is 269.88 ac. This tank receives water from Vaigai River through feeder channel which takes off at 2km upstream side of the tank. The two banks of the supply channel were encroached at many places by house holds, temple, coconut trees, small petty shops and brick chambers. The tank earth has also been excavated profoundly by

the brick makers. Most of the ayacut was converted into houses. About 77 acres of land and its ayacut is being cultivated with the ground water. The supply channel was not maintained for more than 40 years. Hence it got silted up heavily and infested with Prosophis jungle. This tank is the main recharge source for more than 1800 wells in the corporation ward 71.

We initiated the work. Daily two Luskar officials from PWD department and one assistant engineer of PWD department visited the site and gave instructions. Whenever problem occurs, revenue department people would visit and take steps to solve it. The encroachment was a big hindrance for the progress of work. Therefore, we decided to do the eviction simultaneously.

Types of encroachments

Based on their encroachment type, the encroachments were grouped into three types-

Type 1:

The encroachers were very poor people living a life on earning on daily basis. They were either living in encroached areas in their own huts or in rented houses. However they knew that it was a porampoke land, and they had no ownership on the land. But they did not have any other alternative place or resources to meet their housing need.

Type 2:

They were middle class people. They were living in houses with more comfort. They owned some piece of land and they have extended the limit of the house. They occupied the channel completely and turned the channel into lorry workshop, shops.

Type 3:

The encroachers were usually very rich people. They do not care about encroachment. Their attitude was to use the land to the maximum extend possible; they were backed by political and money power. They have constructed temples and big buildings, in the encroached lands.

Encroachment Eviction

First initiative of eviction started with demolishing a brick chamber and a house, which were built in the supply channel. They tried to stop our works by giving disturbances to our works. The next eviction was tiles company, which occupied 75 per cent of the channel width (60 m X 10 m). When the owners of the tiles company came to know about our plan to demolish their unit they tried to bribe us. We ignored it and proceeded to demolish the unit constructed in the supply channel. Then the subsequent areas were planted with coconut trees, silk cotton trees, and banana trees. The width of 3 meters was maintained throughout the length. Residents dwelling in the adjacent areas had planted the trees. When they came to know that eveiction is going to take place, they had to accept the reality of loosing their benefits they were enjoying until that time. They were using this grooves and channel as walking pathway to reach the main road. They protested the eviction and agitated demanding a bridge to facilitate pathway. However, we continued the eviction and cleared the grooves and uprooting the trees. We told them to approach the government for a bridge and we went ahead with the eviction. Works till this point of time, eviction was just a task to be completed.

The next area to be evicted was a school whose playground and watchman building were built on the supply channel. The school administration requested us to avoid eviction in their premises. They feared the children would fall in the channel and parents may fear about

the child's safety in the school timings. When I went to supervise the work, my heart was heavy seeing the children playing near our eviction works. But it is the responsibility of the school administration to find an alternative to this. The next area was occupied by two houses built by poor coolie workers. The masters (owners), under whom they worked for years, gave the land as a gift before 15 years to the two poor families. The poor people built their houses with what all they earned in their lifetime. The families had no other resources to manage the situation. We decided to demolish and we received threats from the masters who gave the land to the poor coolie workers. We felt very sorry for the poor families and it was a tough moment to see them cry. We proceeded to demolish the houses using JCB. The poor families thought we demolished due to the personal vengeance initially. After they had seen the documents from revenue department and understood the legal implications, they agreed to cooperate for eviction.

The immediate encroachment was a big compound wall worth Rs. 12 lakhs belonging to an industrialist in Madurai. It was built exactly in the midway of the supply channel. To demolish the compound wall we spoke with the engineers who work for the industrialist. By that time, the people who encroached down the channel have decided to co-operate the eviction if we demolish the affluent person's compound and would resist eviction if we leave the compound untouched. The owner of the compound wall being an affluent personality of Madurai, the public thought we would leave his property undisturbed. We spoke with the compound owner's engineer explaining the process of eviction. They accepted immediately and we demolished the compound wall on the next day. Seeing this eviction, all others who encroached down the channel cooperated. Down the channel, the encroachers were shopping complex, residences, temples, lorry service stations and water suppliers. The entire length had the main part of the building in own land and had their front portion like vehicle parking and working area in the encroachment area. They tried to block our efforts as eviction would hinder their comfort.

We successfully completed the eviction with cooperation of federation members, PWD officials and revenue department officials. During eviction, PWD called tender for a contract to fix Water Resources Organisation (WRO) boundary stone with concrete pillar. The PWD-selected contractor laid the boundary simultaneously with our eviction process. When the eviction was completed, there was a clean revived supply channel which was a defunct channel for more than three decades, was lined with boundary stones. The channel was dug for a three-meter width with an average depth of 1.2 meters. Bunds on both sides had been formed close to the boundary to prevent further encroachment. The channel of around 10-meter width was clearly demarcated by erecting concrete pillars on either side. The total work cost was Rs.1,86,000.

Jungle clearance and Desilting

Jungle was so dense, which made excavation difficult. It was a dense vegetation of shrubs and bushes including Jetropa, Prosaphis, Palmyra trees and many other wild species. It took two months (from 20. 01. 09 to 08. 03. 09) to complete the jungle clearance. The earth mover worked for 300 hours to complete the task. The work was started on January 2009. The proposed channel length was 1830m through out the length, nearly Rs.40,000 worth of coconut trees, cotton, and neem trees are removed. Nearly Rs.10 lakh worth of encroachment was removed. The width was maintained 3m throughout the length. Earth was excavated and deposited on both sides of the supply channel bank.

People's Voice:

More than 1800 wells in this area get recharged even with a short shower, says a person residing in the area. Kochadai area often suffers water scarcity for agriculture. Now the situtation have changed with onset of monsoon, the lowering of the water table can be elevated if the supply channel is revived and it could facilitate good quality drinking water. The supply channel would benefit people living in Doak Nagar, Achampathu, Kochadai, Ashok Nagar and Thuvariman by providing drinking water. People residing in this area feel that their comfort level and their regular routine are disturbed as they were using the channel as pathway. They need a minimum of 30 culvert (a small bridge like structure) to facilitate crossing the channel. Real estate businessmen say the eviction has disturbed their business as the market value of the land is greatly decreased after the eviction. ∎

Tank Based Watershed Development:

Lessons learnt from Grassroots Participatory Impact Evaluation

Er. N.Venkatesan*

Introduction

In 1970s, watershed development had no special significance for the development community in India. Some of the projects that became success stories and household names, like Sukhomajri and Ralegon Sidhi, were already underway, but received very little attention. However, the situation changed radically by the end of the 1980s. The major examples of watershed development taken up earlier had started to leave their mark on the development community. Sukhomajri and Ralegon Sidhi were now well known examples of successful watershed development efforts. As a result, during the 1980s, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) initiated some 42 'model watersheds' all over the country (under the Operation Research Programme).

The concept of integrated watershed development, which began with the experimentation of Sukhomajri and Ralegon Sidhi and the Operation Research Projects of ICAR in the 1980s, was first institutionalized in the form of the National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) in 1990 with an allocation of Rs.133,800 million in the 8th Five Year Plan. Following the Hanumantha Rao Committee's review in 1994 and the formulation of 'Common Guideline', the period 1995-2001 saw the implementation of the 'first generation' project phase under the Revised Guidelines of 2001 with support from the Government of India as well as many bilateral agencies.

Watershed development was thus increasingly seen as the Linchpin of rural development in dryland areas; as something that would tie together and ground the rural development effort. Notable examples of watershed development seemed to offer a way out of stagnation and degradation for all those areas that that development seemed to have bypassed, because it was precisely in those kinds of areas that watershed development had left its mark – the drylands, the wastelands, the degraded commons and the semi-arid and arid regions perpetually under the shadow of drought.

Tank based Watershed Development

According to the minor irrigation census conducted during 1986-87, Tamil Nadu had over 39000 minor irrigation tanks using surface water. These small-scale surface irrigation works are widespread and serve extensive areas. Tanks, which are relatively small and having shallow storages, constitute about a third of all minor irrigation in use. In three districts of Tamil Nadu (Pudukottai, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram) tanks are the dominant irrigation sources accounting for over 80 per cent of the total irrigated area. In the State, the tanks account for over

*Er. N. Venkatesan, Programme Leader, DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

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26 per cent of the irrigated area. Being small storages, tanks have relatively small ayacut and on an average, it is 22 hectares. The challenge in the tankfed areas is sustainable agriculture and conservation and development of these small-scale water bodies. However, in Tank intensive watersheds, no new storage structure will be introduced in their catchment areas.

The major stakeholders from the Government side in the tank and pond management are the Water Resources Organisation of Public Works Department and the Panchayat Unions. There are various other departments involved in tank management like, Forest, Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, Fisheries, etc. Though the beneficiaries would be major stakeholders, all the people of the village benefiting from the water bodies would also be the other stakeholders.

Measures for Tank based Watershed Development

- Conservation, development/ rehabilitation and sustainable management of natural resources like tanks, ponds, feeder channels and other water bodies like springs and streams with the full involvement of the people
- Vegetation improvement in the tank areas and greening the villages
- Community managed operation and maintenance of the tanks and ponds for effective water management including conjunctive use of water through community wells and equitable distribution of water through Water Users' Association.
- Usufructory rights of the water bodies to the poor and landless SHGs
- Soil and in-situ moisture conservation measures like trenching, check dams, etc
- Promoting tank based livelihoods

People participatory Approach: DHAN Foundation's Experience

DHAN Foundation has been implementing people participatory tank development program since 1992 in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Pondicherry. Tanks are the lifeline for rainfed agriculture in most of the districts in the southern states. Tanks are the mini watersheds. The Programme organises people around the resources and promote people's institutions at different levels i.e. Tank Farmers Association and Dryland Farmers Association, Watershed Association/Cluster level association, sub-basin or basin level association/Farmers Federation. In all the project areas the program put efforts to enlist people's participation. The experiences and learnings are as follows:

Opportunity for Participation:

Success of any participatory programme depends on the opportunity available for different actors to participate in the programme right from the project planning. The programme provides adequate space for individual and for community as a whole to participate in the programme. The programme organises village level meeting and which assures the participation. To ensure active participation the programme put maximum efforts in the first village meeting onwards. Depending upon the social setup in the village the team follows any one or combination of efforts to ensure attendance in the meeting. They include organising meeting through

DHAN foundation believes in participatory approach throughout the project period starting from delineation of watershed, baseline creation to completion of the work and post project sustainability. During each stage, based on the people's suggestion through the participatory monitoring and evaluation, the new things have been added in the implementation and management of the systems to sustain the initiatives. The DHAN foundation presently implementing 45 watersheds under NWDPRA, 3 watersheds under NABARD and 15 more watersheds under DPAP and 10 more watersheds under ITC (Private Public partnership programme with ITC at Sivaganga district). In all these watersheds the participatory monitoring and evaluation process is followed in all the stages of the project implementation. By this process we could able to identify the right kind of the beneficiaries for interventions, the right kind of the intervention under each component of the watershed activities. The ownership of the community by way of contribution and involving in the implementation have been realized which led to sustaining the initiative for future maintenance of the structures created.

village committee, through Caste Association, through other villagers and through house-to-house request. The way we organise the first meeting laid foundation for participation.

Resolving Conflicts:

Conflict is a natural phenomenon in any system. It is a struggle between incompatible and opposing needs, wishes, ideas, interests or people. In any participatory project, conflict is inevitable. The unresolved conflicts from the past, exclusion of a few stakeholders, encroachers, deliberate misuse of common resources, infringement on traditional rights, inequity among different stakeholder groups, individualism etc hampers the participation.

In our cases the characteristics of the conflict are as follows:

- Conflicts arise from the emotional issues
- Conflicts arise over the ownership, Control and use of the resources. E.g. Encroachers and illegal water users.
- Conflicts are latent for long periods of time if the parties have no chance to have a confrontation. E.g. No village meetings
- Conflicts around common resources like tanks and ponds severely affect the status of the poor because it closely associated with the survival of the poor. Eg. Drinking water.

The team has adopted the following steps to resolve and manage the conflicts.

Because of the strategy of conflict resolution through the process monitoring in all the watersheds implemented by the DHAN foundation, many conflicts have been identified and resolved by the community themselves within the watersheds. The examples of such conflicts were:

- *Encroachments in the water bodies at many places have been evicted with the support of revenue officials*
- *Water sharing issues in the water bodies like tanks at many places have been resolved amicably*
- *Issues related to village events like temple festivals sharing the common lands for collective action etc have been resolved*
- *Many places the individual family level issues related to sharing the resources have been amicably settled down*

At the time implementation the issues like occupying the sites for soil conservation works, fixing the rates for the implementing civil works, and related issues have been resolved

- Wherever differences of opinion among the members towards village common work are found out, the team acknowledges that there exist a conflict and works towards resolving it.
- Patiently hearing the different points of view within and outside the village
- Together with the villagers the team explores ways to resolve the conflicts.
- Jointly evolve a solution by consensus.

Our approach in the conflicts will create a healthy working relationship among the villagers. New rules are brought out and thereby new management regimes are created for village administration and common resource management. In many cases a second line of leadership emerges and neutralise the existing power equations from the village.

Contribution mobilisation:

Contribution is compulsory for a real participation. People should contribute minimum 25 per cent of the project cost either through labour

From DHAN foundation's experiences, mobilising people's contribution is an effective strategy for building the stake of the community and it would lead to real ownership of the community on the assets created as common property resources. By this way we have ensured the 25 percent contribution in all the watershed development works through the proper monitoring and evaluation throughout the process of implementation. Because of this 25 percent contribution concept, the community could able to do more work per available amount by way of participatory implementation by supervising the works critically. And at the same time they also deposited the 5 to 10 percent money in the watershed development account opened specifically for future maintenance. By this way each watershed have Rs. 1.5 Lakh on an average as corpus fund for future maintenance after the project period.

or kind or cash or combination of any two or three. The compulsory contribution builds people's stake in the project. It also makes the program more accountable to the people. In our programme, contribution after programme implementation in maintenance of tank complex systems could be seen in many places every year, which implies people ownership in order to maximise the benefits.

Project Implementation:

All the activities of the program are implemented only through the people's organisations. The program funds including the Grant from the Government are spent by the people's organisation. The project personnel in no way get involved in handling funds. They never engage contractors to do any project activities. DHAN Foundation executives facilitate the implementation process by way of free techno-managerial inputs; training local people on supervising the work vis-à-vis monitor the progress. Thus the responsibility of leaders reflects in cost effective implementation with quality. It also builds people stake in the project.

Process Review:

The interaction within, between and among the project personnel and people is systematically reviewed then and there. This will help the project to ensure maximum level of participation. If any changes are needed in the implementation, they are carried out immediately. It helped the project to ensure member consensus throughout the project.

Integration of Privately owned Resources and Common Resources:

Common resources development is given maximum possible attention it the program. The Program always maintains a balance between the privately owned and common resources development. The fund allocation to common resources development and benefits sharing from common resources are systematically worked out by involving the people.

Basin approach:

Watershed is a part of the river basin. Watershed development program should not be implemented in isolation or based on other man-made parameters. The river basins will be considered as a broader area for expansion of the program on a limited time dimension say within 10 years. While doing so, the revenue boundaries, state boundaries should not become bottleneck.

The way forward and recommendations

Based on our experiences of implementing various watershed programmes during last 10 more years, we learned many things from the community through their participation and implementation and we propose the following model of watershed programme implementation as to ensure the sustainable development of the natural resources by the community as narrated here:

1. Each Micro Watershed would have Two Phases of Project Life Duration namely 5 years under Phase –I and 3 years under Phase –II.

2. The Phase I could be further emphasized with specific focus as mentioned below

1st Year : Establising Memorundum of Cooperation with NGOs by Tamil Nadu Watershed

Development Agency (TAWDEVA) and District Water Management Agency (DWMA), Community Preparedness, Planning and Proposal Submission, Sanctioning Process, Orientation towards VALAM and Entry Point Programmes, Identifying Action Research Areas.

2nd Year : Identification of Physical Works for entire watershed, Issues Mapping, Resolving Issues, Technical Estimates Preparation, Validation, Base Line Data Development with Impact Monitoring Indicators, Capacity Building of Three Streams, Action Research Design, Sharing and Approval

3rd Year : Physical Work Implementation and Agricultural Livelihood Development Interventions, Need Assessment and Skill Building for Community Enterprise Initiation, Undertaking Action Research

4th Year : Interim Evaluation, Value Addition for improvement of Physical work implementation and Livelihood Interventions, Capacity Building, Continuing Action Research

5th Year : Project Consolidation, Final Evaluation (Social, Physical and Economical), Results of Action Research

i. The membership of Watershed Association should be on House Hold Basis wherein both Gender enrolls and Gender Action Plan should be derived for Agricultural and Non farm Livelihoods

ii. Each watershed would be implemented through Watershed Association and watersheds would be selected on Contiguous basis in a Sub-basin level in order to achieve area based development and realize the impact of massive investment for broader area. In our proposal 19 districts and 11 basins and more than 50 Sub-basins would be benefited.

iii. The investment rationale for watershed programme as this proposes Watershed Plus would be Rs.12000 per ha during the first phase, of which the Government Share would be Rs. 8000 per ha and the people contribution through Cash, Kind, Labour and Loan would be Rs.4000 per ha for each micro watershed.

iv. **PFA instead of PIA:** Since the functional groups promoted locally (i.e.,) Watershed Associations comprising User Groups and SHGs are going to implement the programme, the line departments or the NGOs will be the facilitating agencies only. In this context, the phrase "Programme Implementing Agency (PIA) now used in the watershed development documents is a misnomer and it needs to be changed as Programme Facilitating Agency (PFA).

v. **Significance of NGOs in watershed development programmes:** The watershed development programme is more of people oriented than the technology oriented. The policy of Govt. of India through its WARASA (JAN SAHBHAGITA) document also clearly brings out the people's participation to the centre-stage in implementing watershed development projects. So, the pre-requisite for the success of any watershed programme will be "enabling the people" in planning, implementing and maintaining the development works in their watersheds.

vi. As is well known, the Govt. system is efficient in Technology and accounting, where as NGO system is good in organizing and inspiring the people with commitment for social service. So, utilising the services of NGO's which have suitable technical personnel in their pay roles as PFA also can yield the expected results of watershed development. On this score, at present a few NGOs are involved in the implementation of watershed development works through people's participation.

vii. But, in the recent past, the NGO population has increased much with multi-various objectives stated for each one of them. So there is a need for fixing criteria for selecting the reputed and suitable NGOs as PFAs for watershed development. Such a model criteria is furnished below. ■

Our Experience in Fifth World Water Forum

Er. A.Gurunathan, Er.R.Venkatasamy*

Istanbul, the cultural gateway of Europe and a region where human civilization began many centuries ago before Christ, the capital of Turkey was the venue for the conduct of the much proclaimed water extravaganza of the world namely 5th World Water Forum. The world's largest event, once in three years, found its way to Istanbul from Morocco, The Hague, Kyoto and Mexico were convened with the support of World Water Council, Istanbul BUYUKSHEHIR, DSI and ISKI (Istanbul Su Ve Kanalizasyon Idaresi) from March 16 to March 22, 2009.

The forum aimed to bring sustainable solutions to water related problems of modernity focussed on six thematic areas namely global change and risk management, advancing human development and MDGs, managing and protecting water resources, governance, finance and education, knowledge and capacity development. Besides thematic discussions by seminars and side events, children's forum, youth forum and learning centre provided platform for everyone to participate and express their view points based on the regional and agro-climatic context in the wake of present global melt down and financial crisis. Over 30000 participants from 192 countries across the globe took part and created a history that the most number of participants in a single event convened in the World till date.

Side events numbering 104 were held as parallel workshops, seminars, debates, closed door meetings, documentary screening etc. organised by more than 100 organisations to highlight the issues, frame work, mechanisms, approaches in combating mammoth water related problems.

Parliamentarian meetings of Turkey were held on 18-19 March to develop water legislation help desk proposal to address issues like transboundary waters, right to water, decentralization policies, etc.

From March 20-22, the forum hold ministerial conference and over 200 water ministers across the globe took part to consensus and put for Istanbul water guide with a clear message on the overall theme "Water management adaptation strategies for global changes including climate change/variability".

Twenty Four seminars were organised in all six themes put together and tabulated as under

There were also dedicated regional processes to discuss the regional specific burning water issues on each day for Europe, Americas, Asia-Pacific, Arab, Africa, in and around Turkey and Mediterranean. In the forum, there were meetings of high level expert panels on water and disaster, adaptation to climate change, sanitation, financing for water and water, food and energy.

Water fair housed global water education village, civil society village, Istanbul 2010, arts & culture, speaker corner, citizen's water house and learning centre. Multi stake holders activities like poster exhibitions, photo exhibitions, international water and film event were held in Water Fair. In the space made available to us, we could place the posters on Vayalagam water development interventions, brochures and our publications.

The water programme of DHAN Foundation found its place in two thematic discussions by way of presentations in a round table process in 'Adaptation to Climate Change' (Theme 1 Topic 1.1.2) convened by Food and Agricultural Organisation, Global Environment Fund and International Water Association and presentation as a speaker in theme 'Ensuring Adequate Storage Infrastructure to Meet Agricultural, Energy and Urban and Rural Needs' (Theme 3 Topic 3.2.3) convened by International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) and China Institute of Water Resources and Hydro Power Research (IWHR). Our power points can be requested by sending e-mail to **dhantank@gmail.com**

***Er. A.Gurunathan,** Chief Executive, DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation and
Er. R.Venkatasamy, Programme Officer, DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation, Madurai.

Theme 1- Global Change and Risk Management

1. Adapting to Climate Change
2. Water related Migration, Changing land-Use and Human Settlements
3. Managing Disasters

Theme 2- Advancing Human Development and MDGs

1. Ensuring Water, Sanitation, Hygiene for All
2. Water for Energy, Energy for Water
3. Water and Food for Ending Poverty and Hunger
4. Multiple uses of Water

Theme 3 – Managing and Protecting Water Resources

1. Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation
2. Ensuring Adequate Water Resources and Storage facilities to meet Agricultural, Energy and Urban needs
3. Preserving Natural Ecosystems

Theme 4 – Governance and Management

1. Implementing the Right to Water and Sanitation for Improved Access
2. Institutional Arrangements and Regulatory Approaches for Efficient and Effective Water management
3. Ethics, Transparency and Empowerment of stake holders
4. Managing and Protecting Surface, Ground, Soil and Rain Waters

Theme 5 – Finance

1. Sustainable means of financing local water authorities and systems
2. Pricing Strategies for Financial Sustainability in Water Sector
3. Pro-poor financial policies

Theme 6 – Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development

1. Education and Capacity Development Strategies
2. Water Science and Technology: Innovative Solutions for the 21st century
3. Using the Assets of professional Associations and Networks to Achieve the MDGs
4. Data for All
5. Water for Culture

World Water Council which is an International Water network where in DHAN Foundation is a potential member had pavilion at 5th World Water Forum. In the Pavilion, the World Water Council provided members' hub to connect, communicate and collaborate once water actions. We screened films on our tank cascade development in Nalgonda and Pan-IIT Philanthropy initiatives and shared our experience in tank conservation, tank based water shed development, safe drinking water for poor households, urban water initiatives including waste water recycling and sanitation under a topic "*Traditional Small scale Water Resources and Lifelines*". This space helped us to position our organisation with global perspective.

One of our water expertise and training centre partner, Canadian NGO, CAWST organised deliberations on How to scale of household water treatment programs, where in we had highlighted our successful implementation experience with water demand perspective.

We too had our share of half day sight seeing to water works in Istanbul's endowed Islamic history where huge numbers of mosques, water links connecting Black Sea and Aral Sea (a Strait dividing Europe and Asian portion of Istanbul). This reiterated not only to us but all us Humanity Water Remain a Vital Ingredient of Life. We vow to continue our journey in faith and confidence to rebuild local actions for water resources management in our project area. We are very grateful to DHAN Foundation and World water Forum Secretariat to make our presence in the global arena with pride and dignity.

Celebrating Vayalagam Movement

Er. N. Venkatesan*

You all are aware that we are celebrating Vayalagam Movement Day on 7th March. This year we thought we can contribute to the society by doing works for water bodies through Vayalagam shramadhan (donating manpower) in the tank and its system across many villages simultaneously at all locations. We earlier celebrated the day with single event at one place by gathering the mass. But those had not made the vibrancy for the movement identity at majority members in the location. Hence since last year we decided to celebrate the day with village level events of more numbers simultaneously to get more people (members) participation. In that way last year on 7th March, 2008 there were more than 192 shramadhans across south India at various villages. This year we planned to celebrate the day with 246 shramadhans simultaneously at all locations and regions with 15000 participants across south India.

The basic principle behind the shramadhan is also coinciding with our purpose of Vayalagam movement to create the local management of the tanks and small scale water bodies by the community themselves. The sharmadhan in the tank complexes by the community once in a particular period is also similar to maintenance of the temples by the public in Tamil called *Ulavara Pani* (which means doing a work from heart, not compulsion). In this process every villager work with lot of involvement and enthusiasm for the betterment of the temple, it's surrounding area and other public property owned by the community once in a particular period as regular event.

The tanks are like temples need to be maintained by the people regularly through shramadhan. This is the principle for integrating the shramadhaan as one of the movement activities to inculcate the culture of the periodical maintenance by the community itself. The shramadhaan have been planned with the activities such as cleaning the supply channels, clearing the weeds in the bunds and tank beds and they also do the pongal in the tank premises and distribute the happiness on the eve of the day to many people who participate in the event.

We recall the decision of our movement's annual general body meeting resolution on conducting 1000 tanks sharmadhan this year 2008-09 at all the locations put together.

Shramadhaan activities were carried out in all regions as a part of Vayalagam Movement Celebrations.

The entire March month's focus was on movement day celebration and it added significance as it coincide with the world water day on 22nd March. We had decided to encourage shramadaan at village level. This would help renovate the water bodies as well as it would be a means of showing solidarity such as public meeting, pathayatra and rally. By celebrating such events, members and leaders get enthusiasm and motivation for being as Vayalagam member and do collective action. ■

***Er. N. Venkatesan,** Programme Leader, Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

Social mapping

PDM 8 batch Students of Tata-Dhan Academy

The purpose of this method is to identify households on the basis of predefined indicators related to socio-economic conditions. This method concentrates on a relative ranking of people's socio-economic conditions (e.g., relatively well-off and worse-off), rather than making an absolute assessment. This method can help assess which households are benefiting from the project and if these belong to the intended target group. It mainly focuses on the depiction pattern, nature of housing and social infrastructures like roads, drainage systems, schools, drinking water facilities, etc. It depicts what the local people believe to be relevant and important to them. It helps us in understanding how people and resources are organised. Social Mapping of a village provides a picture of the way houses, water taps, etc., are organised and can help us see class and caste patterns. Similarly, natural resource mapping can give us details of land, water, trees, and other such resources, their locations in relation to the village, and from there on to an indication of how and by whom they are used.

Social mapping can provide an overview of any socio-economic aspects, such as leadership, professions, skills and experiences in a community, as well as its well-being. However, well-being ranking focuses on a community's perceptions of well-being, such as status, size of land and family, income, etc. In both cases, we can get the details of access to water supply and sanitation facilities by poor/middle/higher-income households.

Both methods are also useful for a purpose or quota sampling procedure, by making a selection from different well-being classes. By discussing what well-being means at each monitoring event, it is also possible to track changes in the criteria of well-being to see if people's aspirations are shifting.

This method is most useful when ranking in groups of a limited size. It can be used in larger communities, focusing on neighbourhood-specific rankings, but it will be difficult to compare results between sections.

We are going to see how social mapping and well being mapping were done by two teams, one with microfinance focus another one with health focus.

Rationales of this technique:

As micro finance has become a major tool to tackle poverty, it needs to be monitored and evaluated through PRA or research. Formation of groups or providing savings and credit facilities are not enough, it needs proper evaluation which would find out the status of the stake holders. The SHG households can be categorised into various categories (survival, subsistence, and self employment), to know the growth of the SHGs as well as the economic condition of the each member.

1. Participatory methods are being used with existing group members to identify the vulnerable/needy sections of village and to find out the results varied from village to village.
2. In the process it can discover the SHG-Bank linkage programme in the village.
3. Adoption of participatory approach can make micro finance interventions more relevant as also ensure long term sustainability.

Process

First we decided the process and details to be obtained. A spacious common place in the village where the villagers could assemble was selected for conducting social mapping. We were ready for the exercise by collecting all the required materials like colour powders, sketch pens, chalks, charts, market pens, lights, sound and speaker arrangements. We organised the people by playing some Tamil folk songs, devotional songs and by door-to-door invitation. After people gathered in a common place, one of our team facilitated the process. He explained very comprehensively about the process and its purpose.

Then we invited people who are interested to take part in the process.

***Tata-Dhan Academy,** Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

Some three persons come forward to takeoff the process. They started with sketching the path of the river around the village; slowly they drew the houses and infrastructures of the village. After they finished the whole map, then we started numbering the houses and simultaneously another person wrote the name of the family members in a paper. After that we collected the occupational details which are primary for their income for each and every household. We also collected the details of households with electricity. In between the process, the persons who carried on the process clarified with the villagers who are gathered in the place. Finally we thanked all the participants and appreciated the participants in front of the villagers.

Outcome

From the social mapping we could get more details about the habitation pattern and social infrastructure of the village. The total number of households in the village is 119, of which 41 are thatched, 71 are tiled, five are pucca (concrete houses) and two houses have asbestos roof. We also got the details about the occupational classifications of households 46 are doing agriculture work, 69 are doing gem cutting and four households involved in mill work. We also got the details about the electricity facility availability in the village. Of the total 119 households 38 households don't have access to electricity in which 19 households doing agricultural labour works, 16 households involve in gem cutting in other houses and 3 mill working households. The village have the infrastructure facilities such as an over tank, a primary school, six temples, ten street lamps and a water pump.

Inferences

From the mapping we could conclude that the primary occupation of the village is agriculture and gem cutting. Most of the people in that village are involving in gem cutting and agriculture. There are six temples in that village and the villagers are God fearing so they are genuine in nature. If we look on the structure of that village the houses are very congested and lack of space for cattle rearing. Road facilities are very good inside the village but the connectivity of the road from the village to main road is very poor. It is so because a river is crossing across the road which causes more difficulties to the villagers in the rainy seasons. This also affects the education of children who are studying higher education outside the village. There is no sanitation facility in that village. Open air defecation is practiced which leads to many diseases.

Possible Interventions

Road facility - Building a bridge across the river which can reduce the difficulties facing by the villagers in the rainy season and help the people to improve their connectivity with the mainstream.

Electricity - Most of the people depend on gem cutting and agriculture it needs electricity. So providing electricity can improve their employment and increase their income.

Building transforms and street lights - The street lamps in the village are very limited and people are facing more problems due to that in the night time. People have own land due to lack of transforms they can get the electricity and improve their occupation.

Sanitation structure - Common sanitation structure can be built to reduce open air defecation, which is not good for health it can be done by collective action.

Mobilizing and making people understand regarding the social mapping

Health perspective

Social mapping was conducted to understand the village in dimensions of housing pattern, population details, livestock, and health issues in different aspects like people who are chronically ill, women and children health etc.

Objectives

Following were the objectives of the social mapping

- Mapping the houses, village infrastructure and services according to people's perception.
- Gathering information from the community including details of population, livestock, and household facilities and probing issues like chronically ill people, people affected with uterus cancer, weight of just born children and health of lactating mothers.

Mobilizing people

Mobilising people for the social mapping was an interesting experience. The time selected was evening so that there could be more participants. Initially there were no participants, so we divided ourselves into various groups and invited every one we could see; we also went door to door to invite every one to attend the process. We involved children in amusing the villagers by allowing them to run like a train shouting "come to the south part of the village to enjoy". This process attracted many people and in the spot we also conducted some games for children which attracted some more population to the spot.

Logistics

A place close to the spot where houses were more concentrated was selected, the area was slightly cleared of the obstacles, colour powder, plastic coins of various colours, sticks to draw the lines etc. were used in the process.

Process

Initially with the available crowd we explained what this technique all about is, what should be the outcome of the process and how stepwise the technique will proceed. The crowd got interested with this process and started interacting with us cohesively. We had a basic idea on how the process should proceed with an over all idea gained through various techniques like transect walk, resource mapping, time line, daily activity schedule, etc. First we facilitated people to draw the houses based on different roof types followed by different infrastructure facilities in the village. Then we started enquiring details about different age group people in each house, meanwhile a group of students started asking a smaller group of people about different details of each house hold which slightly disturbed the process. Then we left the process of asking a smaller group of people and continued to interact with the whole gathering. After asking population details, information about chronically ill people, people affected with uterus cancer, underweight children, health of the lactating mothers were asked. This was quite easy because only the particular household needed to be spotted and unlike population details information on each house was not required.

As the time passed on more and more people took part in the process and people were happy to look at a small map of their village. But the process could not be prolonged as it was already night. Finally we asked questions in general about the health issues like health of mothers, why the chronically ill people suffered and concluded the process.

Good practices

We were able to use the information gathered in the earlier

techniques and conduct the social mapping in a more focused manner. Though initially we could not mobilise a large enough crowd, we adopted various techniques (games, different kind of dance and recording and request) to attract people and facilitated them to participate in the process. Finally the efforts gave results. Though we had confusions in the middle, we were able to resolve it and managed the whole process by making a separate team to interact with a smaller group of people.

Difficulties

The process did not start as planned and we had to spend more time on gathering the people. As we started late we were also not able to finish the exercise in time. The initial population details to be gathered took some time and some people looked bored. But overall we were able to complete the process in time.

No of participants

Initially few of them were assembled to participate the social mapping. After a short period of time lot of women and children were participating in the social mapping. More than ten young girls participated. Totally more than forty members participated in the social mapping process; it included children, adults, men women and old age people.

Housing pattern

These are the housing pattern found from the social mapping:

Particulars	Tiled	Thatched	Cemented	Asbestos
No of houses	32	6	7	3
Percentage	66	12	15	7

Primary data source: social mapping

Population Details

Through the table we can summarize the findings and able to say the first hand situation in terms of health.

Details	Male	Female	Sex ratio (F:M)
Total	136	12O	882:1000
Under 5	19	7	368:1000
5 to 18	36	33	917:1000
18-60	65	64	969:1000
More than 60	17	18	1059:1000

Primary data source: social mapping

The sex ratio is very poor in case of less than 5 year category and overall it is low except in case of more than 60 year category which may lead to the doubt that there may be female infanticide but there is no such report in the village. Moreover it looks better in actual figures than in ratio hence the population is balanced in the village.

There are 26 (10%) individuals in below 5 category and 35 individuals (13.46%) in above 60 categories. Hence almost one fourth of the population is dependant and 69(27%) of population is youth of the village who are between the age of 5 and 18 and 129 (49.6%) are in the age group in 18 to 60 and is actually the working population of the village. The village has a good balanced age wise population currently and can have a healthy economy in turn. There has been no deaths recorded in the last one and a half years and it was also observed that natural death was usual.

Health Issues

These are the issues came out from the discussion in the social mapping

Particulars	Status
Chronically ill	1 female
Uterus cancer	4 females (6.45% of total females in 18-64 category)
Home delivery	1 out of 8 (12.5% of total deliveries in last year)
Under weight children	2 out of eight (25% of total deliveries in last year)
Lactating mothers	8
Pregnant women	3

Looking at health issues only one lady is chronically ill with multiple complaints like blood pressure, ulcer, blood vomiting, dizziness, etc... And there are no other such cases in the village. In general villagers are not suffering from chronic diseases.

But looking at 12.5% of home delivery, 25% of under weight births in last one year it is clear that there is a lack of institutional delivery and care, reproductive child health (RCH) is poor in the village. Lactating mothers had a normal health condition. Further there is incidence of 6.45% of uterus cancer among village women; this

is a cause for concern as they have faced medical expenditure for surgery. The medical cause behind this is not clear and necessary steps have to be taken to reduce its incidence.

42% of people cook outside the house and due to windy nature of the village it is cannot be considered as a healthy practice but it actually saves women from smoke. 100% open defecation is followed even though four houses have in build toilets. Only one house ha direct water pipe connection and people use four hand pumps, two syntax tanks, 37 wells and an over head tank for drinking water purposes. But people use the over head tank water pipe connections for washing purposes which is not a healthy practice. But people are much more dependant on the wells for drinking water purposes and they don't wash or bath with the water from the wells which is a healthy practice. The water from wells is also good and not salty. There are enough street lights except for one part of the village where there is no electricity connection. But a solar lamp serves the purpose for nine households. 75% of the population has access to either T.V. or radio and there is a common T.V. in the village.

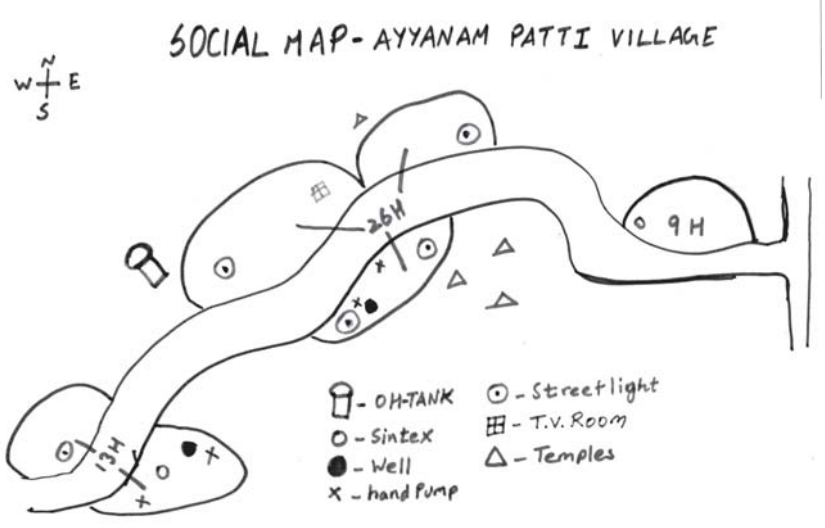
Livestock

81% of the house holds rear hens which are primarily for consumption hence it is a good supplement in terms of nutrition. 69% of houses had one or two cows which was also primarily for consumption hence it is also a good nutritional supplement. 54% of the houses reared goats and among them only 12.5% had more than 10 goats. Hence it is clear that all live stock in the village is a good source of nutrition for the villagers rather than for a commercial purpose.

Possible Interventions

- *Focus on institutional delivery and reproductive child health*

The under weight children and occurrence of home delivery even in today's world is a disturbing fact. It needs to given importance and better awareness has to be extended in case of reproductive child health. Moreover transport facilities for emergencies like delivery must be planned and made available.



- *Focus on better child nutrition*

Children under 5 have to go for Anganwadi which is 2.5 km away and face difficulty in accessing it. Further if nutritional services like supplementary food are provided within the village better nutritional status can be attained among village children.

- *Sensitization for sanitation*

People have little concern for open defecation and there is one particular area in where defecation is concentrated hence possibilities of infection are higher. People need to be sensitized regarding proper sanitation and the Panchayat may be prompted for construction of sanitary complex or individual household toilets as per the current schemes.

- *Intensive livestock*

Livestock rearing had been a traditional livelihood. People can be encouraged to take up livestock livelihood initiatives for better income and nutrition.

Reflection

The social mapping process gave a broader understanding of the health issues in the village with specificity to those affected. We felt though there were not any serious health concerns that were alarming, but we also felt that the village people were getting less than normal service than what they should be getting. Once the process was over people felt that they had got clarity on different health issues that existed in the village.

Community Radio, a tool for Development

B. Muthukumarasamy*

Information 4 Development

The rural poor lack access to information that is vital to their lives and livelihoods, about health, about the structure and services of public institutions, and about their rights. They lack political visibility and voice in the institutions and power relations that shape their lives. They lack access to knowledge, education and skills development that could improve their livelihood. They often lack access to markets and institutions, both government and societal that could provide them with needed resources and services. They lack access to, and information about, income-earning opportunities

Radio: as a tool for Development

India has a very rich tradition of music and radio. The extreme cultural diversity creates endless varieties of styles. Each region has its own particular style. The music and radio are indispensable component of functions such as weddings, engagements, and births. There is a plethora of songs for such occasions. There are also many songs associated with planting and harvesting. In these activities the villagers routinely sing of their hopes, fears and aspirations. Music and Radio mingled with their day to day activities. Radio acts as an effective Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tool for educating the rural masses and spreading the messages for enabling the community.

Community Radio

Community Radio has played a revolutionary role in development communications worldwide since the late 70s, especially in Africa, Latin America, and North America. Of late, community radio has been heavily discussed in South Asia, and in 2006, the Government of India has release community radio for the first time.

The traditional development approach has been a top down approach focusing on creating awareness to the community in the hope that critical information will trickle down and community members will automatically absorb information important to them. However, it has been proved that communities need a participatory approach, where they make the decisions about what is necessary for their lives.Technology mediated approaches are often inappropriate for the community in question. Community radio is the low cost technology model which addresses access issues of the poorest of the communities. Further, it even transcends literacy gaps, and is known to encourage participation from all kinds of communities.

Community Radio with Village Information Centers (CR with VICs)

It is proven that Village Information Centers can offer variety of services to enable the poor community. Community radio combined with the Village Information Centres could contribute more for development

DHAN Foundation has established 20 Village Information Centers (VIC) at Kottampatti. Each

* **B. Muthukumarasamy,** Senior Project Executive, DHAN Foundation, ICT Theme, Kottampatti, Madurai

VIC is equipped with one computer system, web camera, printer, etc. The Village Information Centers are providing various rural ICT services like computer education, computer aided school education , video conference on agriculture, animal husbandry, health, legal , etc.,. As a knowledge building initiative, these centers are also showing offline content on agriculture, live stock maintenance, health, education, etc. The Thagavalagam Village Information Centers are acts as an effective tool for information dissemination in the rural areas. These centers are having great number of regular ICT users from the rural community. Hence, as a pilot, it is proposed to establish the Vayalagam Community Radio at Kottampatti. The Madurai Tank Farmers Association functioning at Kottampatti is establish the "Vayalagam Samuga Vanoli" and it is proposed to generate and disseminate the Vayalaga Samuga Vanoli audio content through the Village Information Centers (VIC).

Process of Radio Programme Production and Dissemination

Village Information center operators are acts as a Community Reporters for the Vayalagam Samuga Vanoli Programme. They were given training to organize the community to participate in the programme, producing the audio content, editing the content and deploying through Public Addressing System (PAS). They were also given exposure visit to local FM stations. Need assessment workshops were conducted to access the radio porgramme need of the rural community and specifically location specific needs were identified and programmes were designed suitable for the need. The radio programmes are produced at the Village level and narrowcasting also done from the VICs. Some of the common programme produced by one operator is shared among the other villages.

Narrow-casting through the VICs

The Radio programmes are recorded at the Village Information Centers and at field level. The recorded programme are edited and narrow-caste through the PAS. There is a regular radio programme narrowcasting schedule at the Village Information Centers. The following is the schedule followed by the Village Information Centers for the Vayalagam Samuga Vanoli.

Vayalagam Vanoli Daily ProgrammeSchedule

Time	Minutes	Topics	Remarks
10.00-10.15 AM	15	Thirukural and Moral Statements for the Day	Live
10.15-10.30 AM	15	Village Events, Announcement and Greetings;	Live
11.00-11.15 AM	15	Women Time – Information about SHG meetings, Resolutions, Recipes tips, Government schemes, etc	Recorded
11.15-11.30 AM	15	Rural Life – About Rural Life	Recorded
04.00–04.15 PM	15	Story Time	Recorded
04.15-04.30 PM	15	General Knowledge, Information	Recorded
05.00-05.15 PM	15	Rural Agriculture Time	Recorded
05.15-05.30 PM	15	Rural Health Time	Recorded
05.30-05.45 PM	15	Rural Kids Time	Live / Recorded
05.45-06.00 PM	15	Community Songs	Recorded
06.00-06.15 PM	30	Special Programme	Recorded

Community Participated Vayalagam Vanoli Programme

The Village Information Center operators organizing the local community to participate in the radio programme. The Kalanjiam, Vayalagam group members, Panchayat presidents, clerks, village heads, school teachers, school going students, rural youth, women and farmers were participated in our various radio programme.

The Pilot Output

The following table shows the list of major audio content topics (as on 30/04/2009)

Sl. No.	Topics	Total Hours of content
1.	Disaster and Management	9
2.	Community Songs	15
3.	Rural Life	12
4.	Rural Health	27
5.	Rural Information	9
6.	Rural Industries	1
7.	Rural Agriculture	19
8.	Rural Festival, Temples and customs	2
9.	Rural Education	6
10.	General, Women & SHG	19
11.	Spiritual Songs	6
12.	General Knowledge	10
13.	Women Time	8 hrs 30 mins.
14.	Children Time	5 hrs 30 mins.
	Total	**149**

A Case @ Katchirayanpatti Vayalagam Samuga Vanoli:

I am working in Katchirayanpatti Village Information Center for the past one year. I came to know that, every year, the center is organizing the Pulse Polio Campaign with the support of the Sub Primary Health Center, which is opposite to my Village Information Center. Since, our panchayat is very big, the Pulse Polio Campaign on 21.12.2008 was held in 3 places in our panchayat.

It was about 2.30 PM in the afternoon, Villagers got a rumor that, a child at Tiruppur died because of the pulse Polio and more children are getting serious health problems. The villagers slowly started approaching my center and asking about the issue. I and the village PHC staff nurse explained the villagers that, it was just a rumor and no need to get any tension or bother about that. Even after our several time explanations, the villagers were not got satisfied and planned to arrange a vehicle and take all the children to Karungalagudi Government Hospital.

I contacted the Karungalagudi Government Hospital over phone (We have a collection of public organization phone number in our village information center database) and explained the situation. He also assured that, that is only a rumor and there was no such case in Kottampatti Block. He asked me to take this information in a broad way and avoid them to come to GH. He added that, already there were 5000 villagers from different villages regarding the same problem. But, there would not be such case in our block.

Hence, I started announcing through Community Radio that, the information from the Government Hospital says that, "The Information is only a rumor, there is no such case in our block, all children are safe and if there is any continuous vomiting or diarrhea for the children, please come to the Hospital. Otherwise, no need for come to hospital and waiting outside for so many hours". I did this announcement for more than 25 times, after that the villagers became relaxed and returned to their home. I would like to say that, my announcement through the Community Radio not only helped the villagers to get relax and avoid unnecessary travel and tension. The villagers have a belief system in the village and people are responding for our general announcement. ■

The Advanced Centre for Enabling Disaster Risk Reduction (ACEDRR)

The ACEDRR is a specialized centre established at the Tata – Dhan Academy by DHAN Foundation with the support of Oxfam America. The centre aims at enhancing the knowledge and practice on disaster risk reduction (DRR) by working with peoples' organisations, non-government and government organisations, technical institutes, research and academic institutes and funding agencies.

The mission of ACEDRR is to provide evidence based knowledge for enabling integration of disaster risk reduction in mainstream development and encourage community driven models and solutions for sustainability of disaster risk reduction. The centre aims to become a centre of excellence in the field of disaster risk reduction through –

- Building and sharing knowledge gained from practice
- Pioneering in research, networking and policy advocacy
- Encouraging innovations and action

Many institutions and NGOs are working in the field of disaster risk reduction. The centre will join them in advancing their efforts by negotiating with complex theories as well as understanding and addressing ground realities.

- Creating knowledge system of time tested and proven development experiences; this enhances its capability to develop and demonstrate widely applicable development models that integrate DRR
- The centre will provide a platform to identify, appreciate and nurture the local knowledge and wisdom in disaster management. It will encourage the practitioners promoting collective action in influencing state and national policies in tune with the community aspiration and needs.

Additionally, there is dire need for the decisions support tools and people trained to use these tools at all levels. At the participatory planning level, there is the need for people with special skills, attitudes and aptitudes who can facilitate the planning process. ACEDRR will help nurturing such people and get them linked to the needs. Above all, ACEDRR is a centre committed to enabling disaster risk reduction.

ACEDRR, as a centre for learning will

- Document the good practices and DRR models already in existence and will disseminate this knowledge to a wide audience.
- Experiment with, develop and disseminate various tools, techniques, and models for DRR.
- Create and maintain a DRR database which will cater to the needs of professionals, institutions and the community.
- Involve community based research and policy research and policy research in the area of disaster risk reduction.

***Tata-Dhan Academy**, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

MDGs in Practice: **1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

Ensuring Food Security

2009

- Credit for consumption: The Kalanjiams have issued loans amounting to Rs.113 million for consumption needs, primarily for food.
- Credit for production: Vayalagams and Rainfed farmers' groups have lent Rs.202 million for various agricultural production needs
- Supporting the needy: The Kalanjiam Movement motivates its member families to save handful of rice each day and share with the needy as an expression of their humaneness

"Right to food is a basic right for all and is an integral part of the right to life enshrined in the Indian Constitution as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. DHAN's Kalanjiam enabling model of microfinance lays primacy on providing a separate line of credit for consumption and emergencies; otherwise the poor families will liquidate even the meager productive assets they possess. The Vayalagam tankfed and Rainfed farming development programmes work for augmenting food security of the small and marginal farmers by securing water availability, improving crop water use efficiency, zero budget natural farming, facilitating collective trading of farm inputs and outputs, ensuring credit and insurance services and other agro based interventions."

Centre for Development Communication
DHAN Foundation
18, Pillaiyar Koil Street, S.S. Colony, Madurai - 625 016. Tamil Nadu, INDIA
Tel.: +91 - 452 - 4353983, 2610794, 2610805 Fax: +91 - 452 - 2602247
Email: dhanfoundation_tn@airtelmail.in Website: http://www.dhan.org