



**Payir Trust**

*facilitating rural empowerment*

# 2008-09 Annual Report



*The first six months of this year was marked by three major happenings.*

*One was the sad fact that the Chairman of the Trust, Shri. S. Sethuratnam passed away at the age of 72 on 6th April. We need to push ourselves much stronger and much more forceful towards the noble ideals he had set us on. He was a man of the highest caliber – methodological, disciplined, honest and had the highest respect for the nature and Mother Earth that we live in – a true farmer. His management of life is worth emulating – clear priorities for his family and those known to him, devotion to work, unbounded craving for knowledge and towards spiritual upliftment of soul. His life long love for plants can only be described by experiencing his garden at his Yercaud home.*

*During this first part of the year, we have had more opportunities to work with and at the Panchayat and District level.*

*We do also have some rejuvenating news on the funding front.*

## **Towards realizing an inclusive Panchayat development**

We have been coordinating with the District administration and the village Panchayat in implementing a number of programmes for Thenur as well as surrounding villages. While many of these can be attributed to the special and focussed interest shown by the District Collector to our projects, a number of good officers in different departments have worked with us in equal vigour to look at a holistic development happening in this area.

### **Welfare schemes**

Working with the district administration and support of the Collector a "mass contact program" was launched at Thenur. About 269 beneficiaries of Thenur were distributed Rs.16.79 lakh worth of welfare assistance. The nature of assistance ranged from pensions for old age, physically disabled and widows to crop loss relief and subsidized agricultural equipments.



Payir also coordinated with local administration in setting up one of a kind special camp for physically challenged. Prior to the camp an exercise of identifying the beneficiaries across 121 villages in Perambalur district was carried out. This was a massive effort spread over 8 weeks during which Payir coordinated with volunteers and other NGO's to raise petitions and collect data. Byproduct of the survey was an online database of disabled citizens within the Perambalur and Ariyalur districts, that was made available to district administration.

This experience has highlighted the need to create within Payir a program which could sensitize the village population and the panchayat of the different welfare schemes of the State. As a start we have put notice boards with all details of welfare scheme near the public TV area in the village.

### **Skill building**

During January, about 20 ladies from Thenur and near by villages got trained as sewing machine operators under auspices of Apparel Training and Design Centre (ATDC) with a stipend of Rs. 40. Payir and local administration are working to explore outsourcing ready-made garment work from Tirupur, Coimbatore, Erode, Salem etc.



In February, DesiCrew Solutions and Payir presented to the Collector the opportunities to setup a BPO unit within the Perambalur District. Subsequently a pilot BPO setup has been created in Thenur village, made available to sourced from DesiCrew. All 8 of the local youth whom we trained on data entry skills have got placed at a highly reputed BPO company. We proposed that this training programme be supported and funded by the Women and Youth Development Department. Further to this the District administration funded DesiCrew & Payir to jointly conduct a formal BPO training for 12 youth over 4 months.



Payir worked with KVK, Perambalur to provide an one-week training on Vermi-compost technique to 30 ladies from Women Self-help groups.