

Payir Annual Social Report



PAYIR NEWSLETTER

April '09 to March '10

Welcome to our 5th annual report. In this issue we give you an overview of our successes and challenges in Education, Healthcare, Employment and Community - our areas of interest as part of our integrated rural development vision.

Education

After school

The year started with us organizing a very successful summer camp that drew 50 students for a period of 1 month. Activities included glass painting, Si-lambattam, Kolattam, puppet shows, computer games and many more field games culminating in a grand stage show within the village. The other big occasion for kids to look beyond their books was the cultural & sports programs organized with Team Everest sponsorship for 10 schools in and around Thenur, Thottiyapatti, Nathakkadu. About 900 participation certificates & prizes were distributed! Lastly our computer centre has been drawing eager computer gamers and painters from the local school after the school hours.



Children taking part in a puppet show as part of the summer camp organized in Payir ashram.

E-learning

Buoyed by our success in attracting after school children we have started classes using video conferencing facility. We have had excellent support from our e-tutors Ms. Sujatha (English – 6-8th), Mr. Angaraj (Maths – 6-8th), Mr. Sathish V (Accounts– for 11th & 12th & B.Com) and Mr. Venkat (Computers,Tally – for Payir staff). In addition to help our tutors teaching from the convenience of their home, we have also setup a dedicated e-learning centre at Mambalam (thanks to Action2020 group), that our tutors can use.

Child welfare

The morning breakfast scheme we started at Thottiyapatti has had excellent results and hence we extended it to Thenur AD school. Voluntary contributions usually come on the occasion of donor's birthday and anniversary celebrations. This program has played a critical role in garnering support of the villagers and teachers of existing schools. We urge the support of our donors to this cause.

The children of Thenur middle, AD welfare and Thottiyapatti schools also received school uniforms, notes and slippers through the generous support of our founder chairman and Rotary club (Esplanade, Chennai)

"I used to hate Math. I barely understood anything. But now I am able to do Math easily and quickly. I love coming here, it's fun and I improve myself too..." - Lakshmanan, a student of the after-school classes.

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Education (contd.)



The new toilets at Nathakadu schools and the refurbished Aganwadi's at Thottiapatti as part of our school infrastructure upgrade program

"I went to Payir's medical camp and they told I had to get operated. Once the operation was done Mythili akka used to come home and give me physiotherapy sessions. These days I visit the health center and get my treatment... I can see a wonderful difference." - Anbuselvi, a girl who had severe post burn contracture and other related health complications.



Patients who visited the Thenu village hospital during the health camp

Tutors

The tutors were taken on visits to help them see and learn from other institutions working in area of rural education. Visits of Vijaya aunty (as the kids call her) to the ashram have been a boon since it has given our teachers (and students of 10th & 12th) a chance to learn and speak English.

Infrastructure

We worked with Build Future India, Action 2020 and Vijay cements to upgrade the flooring, build toilets and put up compounds in Nathakkadu and Thottiapatti schools. With the help of Tamil Nadu Foundation, 5 anganwadis now use Envirofit stoves that have drastically cut down the amount of toxic fumes, cooking time and quantity of firewood required. We also setup a kitchen garden at Nathakkadu that grows season vegetables for use in the school kitchen. These measures have made the environment safer and healthier for the children.

In retrospect we have been able to gain the confidence of school and teachers. They now actively participate in our programs. However one of the areas of challenge is that we are yet to instill in parents the importance and value of children's education. This will be a major area of focus for us going forward. e-Learning has helped us garner sustained support of volunteers from a broader audience.

Health care

Capacity building

Mythili, a trained medical paramedic, physiotherapist and acupuncture specialist joined us in April. Since then she has take up the responsibilities of running day to day operations of the hospital and leading the overall healthcare. She manages the interaction with the doctors and hospitals (in Trichy) for the patients. We were also joined by 4 health workers who come from the villages of Varatharajapuram, Thenur, Thottiyapatti & Nathakadu in May. They underwent a training under Mythili for 6 months and are now able to serve as first responders for the health needs of each of their villages.

Health Camps

As part of the health initiative, we conducted many health camps this past year. Siva anna conducted a physiotherapy and orthopedic camp covering 8 villages and over 180 people. Additionally we also used an *Annadanam* by a friend to organize a health camp for the senior citizens. During the event we gathered their vital health statistics along with the status of their old age pension. Lastly Rotary club Esplanade, Chennai helped in organizing a medical camp across 5 different specialties (General medicine/Pediatrics, Eye, ENT, Gynecology, Dental) with 10 doctors. As many as 630 patients across 10 villages benefited from the event.

Outreach

Apart from providing health care through the hospital we also reach out to the community to provide antenatal care (monthly weighing, high risk pregnancy, immunization), postnatal care (guidance on breastfeeding, meal planning), care to patients with chronic diseases and general health visits. More recently we have started working with the anganwadis to chart the growth

Healthcare (contd.)

of babies and to monitor under-nourishment. Our health workers are using their close links with the villagers to ensure babies undergo regular vaccination and are also provided the health supplements.

Health Education

As part of spreading health awareness among children Dr. Sridhar distributed first aid kits among the 5 panchayat schools we service. In each of these schools we have formed a 5 student school health committee that was trained to provide first aid. We have provided dustbins in 5 schools (sponsored by Team Everest) and are encouraging the collection of waste and safe composting rather than open burning. Lastly we are working with adolescent girls to help them understand personal hygiene and ability to deal with physiological changes.

Referral network/Tele-medicine

Though we have been able to setup a good referral network, the frequency of visit by doctors coming down to the villages has gone down. To overcome this one of the areas we have tapped into is the Tele-medicine. Currently Dr. Shantha Mohan (dermatologist) attends to patients using the webcam at the clinic. We would like to expand this for general medicine.

The good rapport we have developed amongst the villagers, anganwadi workers and school teachers over the year should translate into more tangible results in the coming year. In this past year we have moved away from care at hospital to a more community health approach. For example our outreach programs helped in identifying two cases of cancer – however a more regular program with better focus could have resulted in a positive outcome. In the schools we have seen increased usage of toilets but continued re-enforcement of health & hygiene is important to sustain this. Lastly

Employment

On the employment generation front we ventured into producing Neem based organic fertilizer. This year we have been able to supply over 3.5 tons to IIT (Chennai) providing part time employment to 3 people for 2 months. We plan to introduce this as yearly supplemental source of income.

Our computer data entry has had decline in projects due the poor economic conditions; we hope with the economy picking up things will look better. We have also ventured into free ranging poultry – an initial pilot has shown promise.

Community

Thenur and its surrounding areas are mainly rain-fed. The sparse rains for the past 3 years have wreaked havoc on agriculture and our social forestry initiatives. The hundreds of trees that were planted on the temple lands in Thenur are under distress currently. As a first step towards water shed management program, Payir worked with Dr. Sivagnanam to obtain satellite images of the tanks and waterways nearby. We are in need of volunteers who can work with us to convert this project into a meaningful one that could transform the life in Thenur and all the other villages around it.



A training for the tutors being conducted (above). Villagers undergoing Vermicompost training (below)

"People are more aware about health now and are more concerned. We see good results with the nutrition supplement program for under and mal-nourished kids. These kids come running to me when I go visiting to give them their nutrition packets!" - Sarala, a health worker with Payir.



Cleaning of drainage lines in Thenur village by the local youngsters.



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About Payir

Payir is a community owned rural movement that aims to facilitate in the growth of holistically developed village communities - socially, economically and spiritually so as to realize a high quality of life for every individual of the community.

Payir was started in 2005 by Senthil Gopalan, who gave up his white-collar job in the USA to give shape to his Gandhian dream of revitalizing rural India. Thenur is the first of Payir's endeavors.

Our villages are going through rapid changes - each one based on its own socio-economic factors. A society that used to thrive as an inter-dependent and satisfied community is now facing a multitude of challenges.

We at Payir believe in facilitating an all-round growth of the village communities. Instead of considering problems in singularity or as a relationship of a few entities, we take a holistic view that everything in a village community is inter-woven and inter-dependent.

Payir envisages the transformation of Indian villages into a socially stimulating, self reliant, growth oriented communities rooted in the principles of Truth - a society where people practice and interact with the highest moral values.

"We had ordered 3.5 tons of organic manure from Payir. The quality of the manure was excellent and they offered it at a very reasonable price. We would be ordering more this year..." - Mr. Srinivasan, Estate Manager of the IIT-Madras Campus.

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Payir Trust Offices

Office Bearers

M. Meenakshisunderam - Treasurer
Senthilkumar Gopalan - Managing Trustee

Trustees

Dr. K. Sridhar Dr. R. Lalitha
Rama Sastry R. Sathish

Registration Details

Trust: 112/2005
Income Tax:
Under 12 AA: 81/2005-2006
Under 80G: C.No.6162E(28)/2005-06/CIT-1/TRY

Bankers

State Bank of India, Srirangam
Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Thuraiyur

Auditor

AR. Karuppan Chetty, Chartered Accountant
Tiruchirapalli



Children from Thenur and Thottiapatti schools in their new uniforms & slippers! (above)
Learning computers through fun at the Payir computer center (below)