



Health Work Camp - 2013

Tara Projects, Delhi - October 17 to 22



Delhi, INDIA: The Health Care Work Camp was organized at *TARA PROJECTS ASSOCIATION* in Delhi from **17 to 23 October 2013** where members from several Emmaus communities in France, staff members from *Emmaus International* as well as representatives from *Emmaus Asia* participated in the camp, along with Tara team members and volunteers who actively participated, managed and organized the camp.

The camp started on *17th October* with a warm welcome to the participants, and they were informed about the various community development activities of Tara and their impact on the community, after which

members visited Tara office as well as the livelihood generation activities there. During the second half of the day, participants actively helped to prepare and organize the Emmaus Solidarity Sale. They helped in cleaning, carrying and displaying the large number of craft items in the main hall. The Solidarity sale began the same day and went on for two weeks.

Second day, team members visited the community at *Tajpur Pahadi in Badarpur*. They visited Mutual Health Care Center (MHO) and Tara skill development center there. MHO members shared about their experiences and ongoing actions in the community. The French group members expressed their satisfaction

about the community actions of Tara especially the MHO project, at the same time, emphasized the need to explore the options of making the MHO project sustainable. After the interactive session, the participants headed for the painting activity at Tara tailoring and Tuition center.

On the third day, the participants once again headed for the Tara Health care center in *Badarpur*. The task of the day was to meet the community by visiting their homes and help organize a health camp for the MHO members.

Fourth day, the team members drove to *Pataudi village in Haryana*, had interactions with the artisans group who explained to the team how Fair Trade has changed their lives for the better, and how it has helped to keep the traditional craft alive. Thereafter they helped in digging the foundation of a new workshop cum community center in the backyard of the existing structure. The team also visited the beneficiaries of the Tailoring center, and inaugurated Tara Computer Education Center. They were very happy to see the encouraging response from the community children and the youth, especially the girls.

During the fifth day, the work camp members reached the village *Bas-Padamka, near Pataudi*. The villagers thanked Emmaus team for their valuable contribution in supporting the water conservation, skill development and waste management actions carried out in the village during the last two years. The team was then taken to the water pond in the village, the site for work camp action, and they were explained about the pond, its relevance in the village, the Emmaus's intervention, and work carried on till now and



the overall impact created. In the noon session, a team of volunteers with the youth club members started the cleanliness drive by collecting the polythene bags from the pond.

On the last day, the team members were taken for a city tour. All the team members felt

content with their experience and the outcome of the Health camp and left for work camp at Bangladesh, the next morning.

Thanks to Emmaus International for taking the initiative to organize the Health Work Camp in India and

Bangladesh which was a great learning experience, and which further strengthened the belief that *by working together in solidarity can bring about a positive change in the society.*



Stop Child Marriage

One third of the world's girls are married before the age of 18, and 1 in 9 are married before the age of 15. In 2010, 67 million women 20-24 around the world had been married before the age of 18. (www.icrw.org)



Rajshahi, BANGLADESH: *Thanapara Swallows* had been involved in reducing domestic violence since last 5 years. On *31st December 2013*, *Thanapara* organised a seminar in their sub-district head office, in which local government officials, members from neighbouring NGO's and civil society institutions participated. Altogether 35 members took part in the meeting, the aim of which is to sign an agreement to protest the child marriage.

Early marriage is a big problem for Bangladesh. Despite various government and non-governmental initiatives to stem child marriage in Bangladesh, parents are continuing to marry their underage daughters. The root causes of child marriage - the prospect of reduced dowry payments, and fears of sexual

harassment - are continuing to prompt parents to marry their girls before they reach adulthood. According to the national Child Marriage Restraint Act, it is illegal for parents to marry off female children under age 18 and male 21. But more often the law is not enforced, and parents marry their daughters secretly. Early marriage leads to early pregnancy and there are serious health consequences of early pregnancy.

Thanapara feels that there should be massive awareness programmes from government, NGOs, civil society and everyone to make people aware of the negative side of child marriage. And by signing the agreement during this meeting, it will enable to protest the child marriage if it happens in their local areas.

Funds received from Emmaus Chambery, France - 2013

Emmaus Asia received **4000 euros** during the year 2013 from the *Emmaus community of Chambery*. These funds were equally distributed among seven member associations of Emmaus Asia. Most of the member organisations utilised the grant for *organising training programs* to enhance the capacities of micro credit beneficiaries in book keeping, management and entrepreneur skills; While other member groups distributed the grant as loans to widows, landless & marginal farmers, artisans and landless labourers to initiate their own micro enterprises which is very valuable to create livelihood for them. Thanks to Emmaus Chambery !!!

SELF GOVERNANCE & FINANCIAL AUTONOMY



Tindivanam, SOUTH INDIA: *Village Community Development Society* (VCDS) organised a two day training program on “*Self-Governance and Financial Autonomy for Sustainable Solidarity Action*” at Karasanur campus on **20-21 December 2013** to explore the possibilities of running an organization either individually or collectively with a long term vision and mission. Around 26 participants from 12 NGO’s participated in the training programme.

The programme began with welcome session by *Mr. Martine*, founder of VCDS followed with introduction by *Ms. Josephine*. The topics taken for discussion included Organization behavior, Leadership qualities, Importance of creating second line leaders, Method of mobilizing resources for financial autonomy, How to promote truth, honesty & transparency in an organisation, What ‘Solidarity action’ means, and who are the stakeholders and beneficiaries?

Participants were also taken for field visit to income generation activities implemented by two different NGO’s to create an understanding on how to move an organisation towards sustainable development. They visited incense production, rope making and fish net production of HRC dispensary. Another group of participants visited a financial institution BWDA

(*Bullock cart Workers’ Development Association*) which aims to work for the socio-economic development of bullock cart workers & their families in *Tamilnadu*. BWDA also handles the agenda of development activities: Education, Health, Awareness Programmes, Vocational Training as well as group promotion.

During the second day, participants took part in SWOT analysis to evaluate the current situation of their groups who were involved in social development activities. Few suggestions also came up from the participants – Forming federation of NGO’s for better performance and collective actions, unionization of NGO’s to support during difficult times, and forming Financial advisory committee to derive a self sufficiency income generation plan for every two years.

Representatives from the NGO’s who participated found the training very useful, and it provided an opportunity to evaluate their current financial condition and how to establish a stabilised income generation program. It also made them understand the importance of creating second line leaders, the system of how to establish the next generation leaders and how to enhance their leadership qualities. VCDS believes that *collective solidarity action with Emmaus is a credible alternative in this difficult world !!!*



Beirut, LEBANON: In the last term of 2013, the political situation in Lebanon remained the same as in last quarter, with bomb explosions especially in



Tripoli region, North Lebanon, and in the Bekaa. This issue made the Credit committee of AEP (*Association d'entraide Professionnelle*) very careful in providing the loans. Despite all this factors, the loan demand in this quarter was very high. Unfortunately, AEP could not satisfy the demands due to lack of enough funds. These reasons made AEP to look for new sources of funding like Lebanese commercial banks. Finally 81 loans were given during this quarter for an amount of 379,133 US\$

In the month of **October**, Seminars were conducted by AEP to group of women. The subjects addressed were: *Empowering women capacities, Leadership skills, Communication skills, Initiation to micro credit & startup businesses.* And the last day of the seminar was dedicated to develop the knowledge about saving water and use rain water to women entrepreneurs involved in agriculture. Special trainings were also provided to develop the notions of ecotourism.

On 10th of **November**, the traditional meeting of the regional teams took place this year at *Hotel Colibri Baabdat*. All the team members of AEP were present to discuss the achievements and future plans, and updating formalities and procedures. A remarkable event of this meeting was the reports presented by each credit officer, and their suggestions to improve the work and develop their region and the overall activities of AEP. The day ended with the evaluation of AEP's activities, and some recommendations were given to improve the skills and performance for the future.

In **December**, AEP participated in the YMCA contest for the best micro entrepreneur. Four of the borrowers from

'Voice of the farmers' Nammalvar no more



Thanjavur, SOUTH INDIA: The pioneer of organic farming in *Tamil Nadu* - *G.Nammalvar*, died at the age of 75 in Thanjavur district on *30th December 2013*. He is one among the founder members of KUDUMBAM, *Trichy*. He along with the other founders of Kudumbam, established '*Kolunji Ecological farm cum training centre*'. He was actively involved in linking different farms and institutes around the world so as to accelerate the process of ecological development. He has been among one who sowed the first seeds of organic agriculture in the state of *Tamilnadu*. He fought to conserve nature, and was the inspiration behind many movements and organizations that worked for a new ecological revolution.

AEP won valuable awards which were distributed during a ceremony on *December 19*. Also AEP was nominated the 'best Microfinance Institution' from 2005 till 2013 and won a valuable price.



The chocolate project improved this year, it ended very successfully and this allowed AEP to participate in the Emmaus solidarity sale by giving a share of 1500 Euros as Solidarity sale contribution to Emmaus International.

VISITORS TO INDIA

Cuddalore, SOUTH INDIA: In *October 2013*, *Mr. Jean Pierre and Ms. Aurore Querel* from *Emmaus SARTHE* community visited *Florance Home Foundation (FHF)* as volunteers to stay and participate in the daily activities of FHF. They were teaching french language to the staff members of FHF, and English language to school going slum children. More than 25 children attended the classes every day. They sponsored in constructing a rain water harvesting open tank at the size of 21 x 21 x 10 sq.ft. They were also involved in cleaning activities in and around the surrounding area of FHF administrative office.



On *21st December*, *Mrs. Anne LESCOT* from *Foundation de France* made a visit to the tsunami rehabilitation programmes. She visited Child Development centre, income generation programmes and housing projects of FHF, and had discussion with the beneficiaries of tsunami project.

Meet with French NGO - AGIR

Pondicherry, SOUTH INDIA: On *11 Nov 2013*, a meeting in relation with CSR (*Corporate Social Responsibility*) was held with *Mr. Dominique Epstein* from AGIR, an organization based in *France*. **AGIRabcd** is a non profit association with 3000 active volunteers & retired professionals, who offer their know-how and their skills. The meeting took place at *Emmaus Asia office, Pondicherry* in identifying areas of partnership with the organization AGIRabcd.

On behalf of Emmaus Asia, *Mr. Oswald Quintal* and *Mr. Kamal* shared with him the various activities of Asian groups and their interest in working under partnership with French based companies in the area of CSR.

Emmaus Asian groups are looking forward in creating linkages with French based companies under CSR on the following projects – In strengthening alternate learning centers, In afforestation programs, In establishing Saline treatment plants, In water conservation projects, In strengthening organic farmers federations and in collective processing and marketing of organic products.

Mr. Dominique assured that he will look for the possibilities of collaboration in the above areas, and will discuss the matter with french companies and with the association for youth volunteers.



Rajshahi, BANGLADESH:

Thanapara Swallows, since last two years had been working with different high schools in *Rajshahi district*, and had been educating them by conducting various orientation classes like water & sanitation, domestic violence, Child marriage etc. During their interaction with students in high schools between the age group of 14 to 18, *Thanapara* noticed that students at this age feel difficult to adjust with the changes happening mentally and physically.



Hence *Thanapara* decided that it would be useful for the students if they are provided with Preventive health care knowledge, and how to adopt with the changing situation. Hence they organised health sessions in 10 different high schools, 200 in each school during the month of *December 2013*. Altogether 2000 students got benefited. Doctors were invited to present the subject on preventive health care.

Funds received from Emmaus Montbeliard, France - 2013

Emmaus Asia region received a grant of **45000 euros** during the year 2013 from the *Emmaus community of Montbeliard*. This grant had been equally distributed to seven member associations, thereby each group received **6428 euros**, which has been invested in strengthening self sufficiency and income generation of Asian communities. It allowed the Asian groups to implement the following programs:

- **Thanapara (Bangladesh), Kudumbam & FHF (India):** Renovation of their Training centers to generate income. The upgraded centers will help to receive more guests from abroad.
- **YP (Indonesia) & VCDS (India):** To generate income through installing Milk production unit & Beef cattle project.
- **Tara Projects (India):** To provide Micro-Credit support to the marginalized sections of the society.
- **AEP (Lebanon):** To support the deserving persons with special needs by installing kiosks.

Emmaus Asia is very much thankful to the Montbeliard community in helping to support the grassroot groups, and also to work towards empowerment and self dependency.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

Since year 2000, 'International Migrants Day' is being observed on *December 18* to highlight the human rights of migrants. Making migrants voices heard is the common thread throughout International Migrants Day events. This day is seen firstly as an opportunity to recognize the contributions made by millions of migrants to the economies of their host and home countries, and secondly to promote respect for their basic human rights. In Emmaus Asia region, several groups organised the events on this day.

Tindivanam, SOUTH INDIA: *Village Community Development Society* (VCDS) organised a seminar on the migrants rights at *St.Xavier ITI, Mugaiyur*. During the seminar, discussions were held more about the sufferings of the migrants who are living in the strange place with strange culture. People usually migrate to big cities in search of job and shelter. Often they are taken as bonded labourers with more work and less wages

without guarantee of life. Following were the subjects addressed during the seminar:-

1. Causes for migration: People deprived of their basic livelihood resources, unemployment, illiteracy, conversion of arable lands into housing plots, cold wars as well as border wars, bonded labour system, Communal riots, religious uprisings, failure of monsoon etc were some of the main reasons which forces people to migrate.



2. Problems faced due to migration:

People who migrate suffer for want of proper shelter, food, water, sanitation, medicine and suitable job. Moreover understanding alien language, sexual assaults, grabbing of organs of bodies of adolescent male/females, human trafficking and pushing into brothel homes to live as sexual workers etc. are other problems faced because of migration.

3. Right to migrants: Protection of the migrants' fundamental rights, their citizenship rights, right to vote, to protect their life, livelihood resources, access to good education & welfare measures of the government, and above all to lead a life of self-respect and self esteem.

4. Remedial measures: TO work in collaboration with NGOs, government authorities and political parties to protect the livelihood resources of the migrants; TO work in collaboration with Emmaus International to protect the rights of the migrants; TO provide the migrants with food, shelter, education, medical care; TO create employment opportunities for the migrants; TO impart awareness education on the rights of the migrants; TO extend legal aid in protecting life and property of the migrants; TO help the migrants enjoy liberty, equality and fraternity etc.

VCDS strongly believes that freedom of movement is a human right concept that the constitutions of numerous States respect. It asserts that a citizen of a state in which that citizen is present has the liberty to travel, reside in, and/or work in any part of the State where one places within the limits of respect for the liberty and rights of others and to leave that state and return at any time. No Visa should be required for any person to travel to any country and advocates common ownership of the earth. VCDS advocates this immigrants' right and that human being have a fundamental right to mobility not only within a State, but between States and countries, crossing the borders.

Cuddalore, SOUTH INDIA: Florance Home Foundation India organised an awareness meeting on migrants right on 26th October 2013 in Town Hall, Cuddalore. Around 48 members from consumer forum, non government organizations, lawyers and press people were present in the meeting.



Members were informed by Mr.Alexander about various initiatives taken by FHF since last two years in addressing the issue of migrants, and the importance of taking up this issue to state and national level. Migration, in human history has taken place in search for food, accommodation and better livelihood, and in the process, they loose their dignity and self respect, and are being treated as bonded labourers. With women migrants, they suffer abuse and exploitation. Moreover children of migrant workers suffer from various diseases with fever being the most common ailment. This situation is prevalent globally in today's context, and therefore it is time to find a solution for this human right problem.

The guest speakers - Mr.Neezamudeen, the Secretary of "Consumer right forum" of Tamil Nadu & Mr.Balu, the advisor of the forum, Mr.C.A.Dass, one of the human right advocate also addressed the migrants issue and provided guidelines of how to sensitize the public and find the way to solve it through networking with NGOs, human right activist and government officials. Ms.Usharani from FHF emphasized the need to take survey and study the migrant's problem from district to

national level, make it a documentation to lobby with the government and politicians.

FHF has planned to form a network in future to give voice to the migrant victims, wherever they are without knowing their native identity, caste or religion. Also to liaison with Human Right activists, Consumer Federations and lawyers to address the migrant's rights issues.



Rajshahi, BANGLADESH: *Thanapara Swallows* observed the International migrants day by inviting people from educational institutions, civil society organisation and elected representatives from the government. Around 30 people took part in the event. Participants were informed about the history of Emmaus and the initiatives taken by Emmaus International to protect the rights of migrants and the background about the OCU (*Organisation for Universal Citizenship*). Thereafter discussions took place about the need to implement policies at national and international level to guarantee migrants' rights. As a future plan, Thanapara has planned to identify the number of people who have migrated outside Bangladesh from their working areas, to which countries they have migrated, and establish linkage with those people in addressing their problems.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Pondicherry, SOUTH INDIA: On **6th December 2013**, Emmaus Asia with FHF organised a tree planting programme and awareness session on Environmental protection at *Sri Ramakrishna Vidhyalaya Higher*

Secondary School, Puducherry. Mr. Jean Pierre and Ms. Aurore Querel from Emmaus SARTHE community, the team members from Emmaus Asia and FHF participated in the programme.



The programme started at 9.00 am with school assembly of 200 students. During the Assembly, after the welcome session, students were informed about the importance of tree planting and environmental protection. Planting trees is a must if we want to save our planet. Trees not only remove harmful chemicals from the soil, but also helps in providing rain at regular intervals and reduce global warming. At the global level, trees and forests are closely linked with weather patterns and also the maintenance of a crucial balance in

nature. In today's context, the movement towards a deeper commitment to environmental protection through planting new trees and taking care of the existing ones, is rapidly increasing all over the world. Hence, the 'task of environment protection is a universal responsibility of all of us.

After the Assembly, the NSS boys and girls were involved in tree planting program. They planted around 120 tree saplings around the school campus. During the afternoon session, a drawing competition was organised on environmental protection for around 50 NSS students by providing them the necessary kits. All the students eagerly participated, and most of their drawings revealed that they are more conscious in planting trees and in protecting the environment. All the students who participated in the program were given snacks. Prizes were distributed for three outstanding students, and certificates were provided to all the participants.



Trichy, SOUTH INDIA: In the month of **November 2013**, for the first time, children from the villages *Killukulavaipatti* and *Ulangankathanpatti* planted trees in *Ammankorai Community Forest*. KUDUMBAM organised the event, and created an opportunity for the children to learn that the trees give fodder to the animals, medication to the sick and food to the people. The children took responsibility for 10 plants each and will come back every sunday to take care of them.

Universal Children's Day!

Jebara, INDONESIA: *Yayasan Penghibur* organised an event on **20 November 2013** to celebrate the 'Universal Child day' with the theme "*Importance of child Education for Sustainable Development*". Celebration took place at Penghibur premises. School children, teachers and parents participated and enjoyed the event. The headmaster explained to the children the importance of education in creating a sustainable society.

Education is humanity's best hope and most effective means in the quest to achieve

sustainable development. Young children are much more capable in acting, thinking, reasoning and understanding. If these capabilities are to emerge, there is a need to provide access to quality early childhood education, Young children have rights and shared responsibilities in achieving a sustainable future. Sustainable development should be taken into consideration in the development of a world, a continent, a country, a nation, a region, even a small unit. Besides, everyone should ponder their own small-scale sustainable



development, as well as sustainable development on a larger scale within society. Thus, the theory of sustainable development should bring some fresh thinking and behaviour to early childhood education as well.



All the members in the event felt meaningful and very useful of their participation to understand the importance of education. Again on **10 Dec 2013**, Yayasan Penghibur arranged for a get together of the children. more than 300 people participated the meeting. Children who were brought up by Penghibur, and who are now employed in *Semarang and Jakarta* utilised this opportunity as media for 'reunion'.

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