

Activities of

Kiranmayi Socio Educational Society



Admn. Office :

#54-20/9-10A, Srinagar Colony
VIJAYAWADA - 520 008, A.P, INDIA
Mobile : 0091 94405 73842

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INTRODUCTION

KIRANMAYI SOCIO EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY (KISES) has its beginnings in the year 1999, with the sole objective of working with the rural poor and the marginalized, who are more vulnerable to exploitation and oppression. Ever since its inception KISES has been taking up different types of projects covering all sections of stake holders and successfully completed multi-dimensional development projects. The organization has started its activities initially at Khammam District of Andhra Pradesh, with the dalits and the tribals (The Lambadi tribes) focusing mainly on adult education and formation of self help groups among women etc, and later in the post tsunami period, KISES has extended its services to the coastal areas of Krishna District, especially to the island villages of Edurumondi of Nagayalanka Mandal. And it is here KISES initiated several development activities like

- Adult literacy programmes
- Health
- Water and sanitation
- Livelihood
- Agriculture
- Disaster preparedness, relief and rehabilitation programmes
- Environmental issues
- Vocational training / learning new skills / up gradation of skills.

HISTORY AND HOW THE ORGANIZATION STARTED

The founder of KISES (Kiranmayi Socio Educational Society), Mr. Shoury Babu Rebba, was born in a lower middle class family, in a remote village of Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. Being a dalit, Mr. Babu has experienced all kinds of social discriminations and economic backwardness ever since his childhood; and it was this agonizing experience that has motivated him to work for the redressal of socio-economic evils and to establish a just society, where in the poor and the marginalized will enjoy equality, fraternity and Justice. When Mr. Babu was a child, he witnessed the massive disaster of DIVISEEMA CYCLONE (1977), in which thousands of people have lost their lives and left several thousands were left homeless. And the bitter experiences of this sort have prompted him to take up social work in order to extend his helping hand to dalits, tribals and women, the underprivileged sections of the society.

But, in order to realize one's dreams and put one's good motives into practice, one needs sufficient economic resources. Since Mr. Babu belongs to a lower middle class family, no such resources were available to him and he was forced by circumstances to sought an employment in the banking sector and subsequently posted in the Khammam agency of Khammam District. Ever since

he was transferred to the near tribal area of Khammam, he felt once again challenged by the miserable living conditions of the tribals and the dalits, who have been suffering for generations due to oppression, discrimination and marginalization. And ultimately he was forced by his conscience to put his long cherished dream of “social work” into practice, though in an humble way, with programs like literacy, savings and income generating initiatives. And the results of the programmes and the over whelming response from the people were very encouraging. And as advised by several social activists and well wishers, Mr. Babu has gone ahead establishing Kiranmayi Socio Educational Society (KISES) in 1999 at Khammam. Ever since its inception, KISES has been working among the Dalits, the Tribals, all the economically weaker sections, the women and started several development activities in the sectors of health, education, empowerment of women etc and could bring about sustainable improvement in the quality of life. And also the activities like rehabilitation and reorientation of the tsunami victims were taken up and successfully completed.

Initially, the founder was reluctant to establish the organization as he was an employee of the banking sector and he thought that it would not be possible for him to initiate and conduct the development activities properly and successfully. And at this juncture, his life partner Mrs. Rajani Suram, a Post Graduate, working in private sector came forward to support her husband and expressed her willingness to dedicate her time and energy to serve the poor and the marginalized in the society especially the women of Dalit and Tribal communities. And this boosted up the morale of Mr. Babu and immediately he established the organization - KIRANMAYI SOCIO EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY (KISES) and started to realize his long cherished dream of serving the poor. Thus, the couple started their work with the Dalit women and the tribals in Khammam rural mandal. And initially they could complete the women empowerment programme in 23 villages and literacy programme in 10 villages successfully. Mean while the founder Mr. Babu was transferred to Vijayawada and the development activities started at Khammam rural mandal were successfully guided by his wife Mrs. Rajani Suram. And thus after gaining sufficient experience Mrs. Suram was elected unanimously by the general body, as the Executive Director of the organization (KISES). And ever since Mrs. Suram has been holding the same post and is able to complete various challenging projects with her spirit of dedication and hard work. At present, the couple Mr. & Mrs. Shoury Babu (Suram) are completely involved in various programmes of the organization being conducted simultaneously at the three operational areas, one at Khammam rural mandal, the second one at the island of Edurumondi of Nagayalanka mandal and the third one at Pedapatnam of Machilipatnam mandal. And this means spending their quality time with the people, which is meant to be spent in the family and with the children. But the couple has no regrets for having involved themselves in the service sector which actually means living for others, i.e., the poor and the down trodden.

MEANING OF ORGANIZATION (KISES):

“KIRANMAYI”, the name given to the organization has specific significance. “Kiranmayi” is a Sanskrit word, which means “The Light Full of Rays” <http://astrobix.com/name/meaning/Kiranmayi>. And the purpose of choosing this name is that “the light” of love and service should spread its rays towards all sections of people. In the initial stages of its formation, different groups of women were consulted, like women activists, social workers and educationists. And those having sufficient experience in the field of social development are chosen to be members of “KIRANMAYI SOCIO EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY (KISES)”. All the members of the society are offering their services voluntarily without expecting any monetary benefits. Every member of the society shares the vision of the founder i.e., bringing hope to the hopeless, the deprived and the weaker sections of the society, irrespective of caste, class, creed, religion, colour or gender.

LITERACY PROGRAMMES



KISES has started its services among the dalits and the tribal people, who for generations have been suffering under the yoke poverty, exploitation, ill-health, illiteracy, superstitious beliefs, alcoholic addiction etc. The organization on analysis has come to the conclusion that the root cause of all these evils and the miserable living conditions of the people is illiteracy and lack of social awareness. And the only solution placed before the organization, is to promote literacy among the people. Thus, KISES came up with an unique adult literacy programme called “Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya”, with the objective of creating awareness among the poor about of the importance of literacy and teaching them how to read and write. In other words, to make all people in the operational area literate, for the sustainable development of the community. And this literacy programme was started with Budiga Jangalu community (begging is their means of livelihood) and later extended to dalit and tribal communities. Ten literacy centers were started initially in 10 villages of Khammam rural mandal. The following are the main objectives of starting the literacy centers:

- TO MAKE DALIT AND TRIBAL WOMEN LITERATE:



300lit and Lambadi women from the 10 literacy centers were made literate.

- TO REDUCE CHILD MARRIAGES:

After conducting awareness programmes in both the Dalit and Tribal communities, we could see visible changes in the attitudes of the people about marriage and number of child marriages were reduced considerably.

- NO MORE BEGGING – ONLY SCHOOLING:



The children of Budiga Jangalu community used to follow their traditional means of livelihood, i.e., begging. But through the constant efforts of KISES, the parents from the Budiga Jangalu community enrolled nearly 75 children in the nearby schools, even the drop out students were also sent back to school on recognizing the importance of education.

- FORMATION OF SELF HELP GROUPS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

KISES has formed 150 self help groups with 1500 members, having ten members in each group. These self help groups have developed bank linkages and availed loans from the bank and have taken up petty businesses and started earning additional income to lead a good and dignified life. Due to these self help groups, Budiga Jangalu people refrained from begging, which has been their traditional means of livelihood and started leading a dignified life.

- PROVIDING VOCATIONAL TRAINING:



160 Dalit and Lambadi women were trained in tailoring, embroidery, toy - making and 'Adda Leaves' making and thus providing them with self employment and helping them to lead economically independent.

- **DEVELOPING BANK LINKAGES:**

KISES has helped the Dalit and Tribal women to form into 150 self help groups and to develop bank linkages and to avail loans for income generating activities. And so far the self help groups availed approximately 1.5 crores from the bank as loan and invested the amount in petty businesses and other income – generating works.

- **TO CREATE AWARENESS ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS:**

Awareness camps were conducted in 23 villages, on the issues of health and environmental cleanliness and as a result we could notice visible changes in the attitudes of the people.



- **TO LIBERATE PEOPLE FROM SUPERSTITIONS** and fight against the evil of alcoholic addiction.
- To develop awareness among the people about the government schemes and help them to avail the same.

Through the literacy centers, the women became literate and able to study the books of 1st class and 2nd class and by realizing the importance of education, they started sending their children to schools. In order to strengthen the self help groups economically, the thrift programme was made accessible to them and they were helped to avail loans for low interest rates through VELUGU programme.

Lambadi women at Nadimi Thanda were addicted to Gudumba and after joining the self help groups, they have stopped consuming Gudumba (country liquor) and leading their lives with dignity by doing petty businesses.

It was felt important to create awareness on environmental cleanliness, because due to unhygienic surroundings, mosquitoes pose severe problems to health causing many diseases. And in order to curb this problem, it was decided to declare every Friday as a “Dry Day” and on that day every one cleans up one’s house and surroundings and consequently the health and hygiene in the villages have been consistently improved. Till date, this programme has been successfully implemented and brought about significant changes in the attitudes and life style of the people.

SELF HELP GROUPS



KISES strongly believes that to have sustainable development in the family, women should be empowered economically. Though the men initially were reluctant to yield economic freedom to women, gradually got convinced and started cooperating in the process of empowering their women, through the awareness meetings and training programmes. KISES conducts frequent training programmes to the self help groups, in order to strengthen them and to develop in them a sense of commitment and accountability. This initiative of KISES has brought about several positive changes in the women-groups. The women recognized the importance of decision making and started taking active part in the process. For strengthening the groups further, we provided training in capacity building and trained them in conducting the meetings, discussing the issues, writing the minutes and establishing bank linkages etc. As a result, our women groups could avail loans to the tune of approximately 1.5 crores and successfully running their petty businesses.

Vocational training to women plays a vital role in generating self employment opportunities. That was the reason why KISES conducted several vocational training programmes and helped the women to learn various skills, such as candle making. Toy - making, bag - making and 'Adda Leaves making etc. These training programmes have created better opportunities for women to improve and prove their abilities and become successful bread winners for their families.

AWARENESS CAMPS

An awareness camp was organized for the leaders of self help groups on 22nd December, 2005 at KISES office. Thirty women leaders from 15 self help groups participated in the awareness camp. The purpose of this camp was to empower women economically, socially and in every aspect of life and to make them aware of the government schemes which were available for the development of women. KISES conducts this kind of awareness camps to motivate women to take up leadership roles and to initiate various activities to solve all the issues related to women in the society. And as a result, the leaders of SHG's are taking up the women's issues by themselves and getting them solved by obtaining necessary help or assistance from The Government.



CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME



The tsunami that struck the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh in 2004 had disastrous effect both on the lives of people and on the environment. Thousands of people have lost their lives and hundreds of children have become orphans. Having neglected by the society, the orphans are liable to become victims in hands of anti-social elements and become either child labourers or hooligans. In order to prevent this complex social problem KISES, as part of it's social responsibility, has initiated child sponsorship programme in Khammam and Krishna district and extended its helping hand to 75 orphan children.



The main objective of this programme was to provide parental care and economic security and protect their constitutional rights for education and development and thus protecting them from the hands of anti social elements. Under this programme, the children were pursued to continue their schooling and not to discontinue their education. All the 55 orphan children got admitted in to different classes and they will have the support of KISES until they reach 10th class and the organization is hopeful of supporting their higher education also through the help of some generous donors. Right now all the orphan children are in different stages of their education i.e. from 1st class to 10th class and they are studying in various places in the two districts of Khammam and Krishna.



Selection criteria :

The children who lost both the parents were selected for the 'sponsorship programme' in Khammam District. But in Krishna District all the children directly affected by Tsunami were selected along with those orphaned due to the natural disaster.

All the children thus selected have been provided good food and shelter apart from helping them to continue their education. Cultural programmes are being conducted almost every day, in order to make the children feel at home and help them to overcome loneliness depression etc., and to poster a sense of unity and brotherhood among the orphans. And on feast days and important occasions, special programmes are being organized for the children. And also special prizes are awarded to the children who score highest marks in each subject, in order to encourage them. And each orphan child's birth day is celebrated by the community in a joyful atmosphere.

Apart from this, school uniforms are distributed to 150 children who hail from the poor families.

Educational programme:



KISES has been providing financial help to the meritorious students who hail from poor families, in order to help them pursue their higher education. We have selected ten students from 7th and 10th standards and provided them with cash awards. This was conducted at Kotagirilanka village in Avanigadda Mandal of Krishna district on 15th August 2003 on the occasion of Independence Day.

Self Employment Scheme:



Under the Self Employment Scheme for Women, KISES started a tailoring centre for the school dropout girls and unemployed women from Rebbavaram and the surrounding villages. A batch of 40 girls received training in tailoring, stitching, cutting new designs, cost management etc. Out of 40, thirty girls completed their training successfully and were sent to give government examinations, where they could obtain vocational training certificates. After completion of the training 30 sewing machines were distributed to the successful trainees and thus self employed girls are able to support themselves and their families. Some of these trained girls established their own tailoring shops and earning good income.

POST TSUNAMI PROGRAMMES

Disaster preparedness programme:

Soon after the disastrous tsunami struck the coastal belt of Krishna District, KISES rushed to the affected villages immediately. The worst hit villages of Nagayalanka mandal and Machilptanam mandal were identified for the relief work.

Areas selected :



The villages affected most by tsunami in Nagayalanka mandal were the island villages of Edurumondi, which was totally cut off from the main land. In order to reach the villages you have to cross the river by a ferry. And it takes nearly two hours to cross the river and reach the villages, where you will find no facilities whatsoever, neither food nor drinking water. The life of the people over there is much more harder. That is why people from the main land seldom go there, the government official conveniently ignore the island villages when it comes to providing them the basic amenities and much needed relief in times of natural calamities.

But, KISES took it as a challenge to reach out to the isolated island villages and decided to help them, the victims of tsunami, and to continue to work for the betterment of their lives by making various development programmes accessible to them. In fact, it is one of the objectives of our SOCIETY (KISES) to reach out and serve the downtrodden and the marginalized, who are far from development and progress. KISES goes in search of them, gives top priority to their needs, and commences its services with in their vicinities, with their cooperation and collaboration. Initially KISES faced several problems from different quarters, in implementing its programmes in the target areas and with the target groups of people. But, we could endure all the hardships and could successfully pursue our goals i.e. come what may, we shall stand by the poor and the marginalized and work with commitment so that they may have dignified life having the basic amenities like nutritious food, drinking water and primary health services at their disposal.

KISES was the first NGO to reach Edurumondi island and the tsunami hit villages with relief operations. We distributed, immediately, food and water to the starving villages and provided medical aid to the sick. We also distributed to each family a kit containing Rice, dal, cooking oil, vegetables, tamarind, salt, chili powder together with one bed sheet, one saree, one towel, two breads and mineral water packets. But later KISES on introspection realized that what was important

thing to do among the island villages was not just doling out the immediate relief, but to take up concrete measures for rehabilitation and continued efforts for the development of their living conditions. And thus, we did not stop with the relief work but decided to take up the task of rehabilitation of the victims of tsunami in the island.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMME:

As these coastal areas are prone to tsunamis and other natural calamities and the island people are more frequently get affected by these disasters – KISES started awareness programmes among the island villages and make people to realize the need to take precautionary measures in such dire situations. As a result, action teams were formed in each village and we conducted several training programmes for them to teach how to react and help people to save themselves in such times of crises. The objective of forming these ‘action teams’ is to reduce the loss of lives both of men and cattle. And KISES provided the necessary infrastructure needed to implement ‘preparedness programme’ meticulously well.

REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

The disastrous Tsunami has taken many lives in these island villages, especially of the fishermen, who depend on the sea for their livelihood. And surviving fishermen have lost their livelihood as their boats were severely damaged by tsunami. Though the government and other NGO’s provided immediate and temporary relief to the victims of the natural calamities, KISES felt that concrete steps have to be taken to provide proper rehabilitation and to give new orientation to the lives of the victims which have been shattered by the disaster. And accordingly several rehabilitation activities have been initiated and successfully implemented.

BOAT REPAIRS

Fishermen community was the worst hit by tsunami as it severely damaged their boats and fishing nets apart from shattering some families by taking the lives of their breadwinners and leaving their children orphans and destitute. Realizing the gravity of the situation KISES has taken immediate steps to rehabilitate the victims from the fishermen community. We have provided necessary assistance to repair ninety four (94) damaged boats and hundreds of fishing nets and helped them resume their regular fishing work and earn their livelihood leaving behind the nightmarish tsunami.

HOUSE CONSTRUCTION:



Several houses were damaged either fully or partially in the tsunami-hit coastal villages and the families were forced either to abandon their houses or to continue living in the damaged houses continue suffering from all the discomforts. We find the lives of the tsunami-hit families have been completely disoriented, where parents lost their livelihood and children have dropped out of the schools and have become child labourers. And according to social scientists people hail from such disoriented families might become anti-social elements in future. And hence, KISES has focused its attention to rebuild the families by repairing the houses either fully or partially damaged.



QUALITY OF CONSTRUCTION:

In total 225 (two hundred and twenty five) damaged houses, most of them totally damaged, were repaired or reconstructed with superior quality. The aim of KISES was not just to provide temporary relief but to provide them with well built pucca houses. The beneficiary families were very happy with the quality of construction and extremely thankful to the society saying that they could never imagine to have such a strongly built house and to live in such a comfortable house. KISES could reconstruct or repair the houses in total sixteen (16) tsunami-hit villages in Nagayalanka and Machilpatnam mandals.

LIVE STOCK DISTRIBUTION



It was observed that mere repairing or reconstructing the houses does not rebuild a family which was literally devastated by tsunami, in which they lost whatever they had including live stock agricultural / professional tools, and lost their means of livelihood. Under these circumstances KISES felt that an alternative means of livelihood has to be provided to all the victimized families. And we thought this provision should be made not on temporary basis but as a permanent solution to the problem and accordingly we decided to

implement 'livestock distribution' programme. As per the plan we distributed two (2) buffaloes, two (2) sheep, ten (10) chicks and five (5) fruit plants to each of the affected families and thus we could provide an alternative means of livelihood for them. In total 256 buffaloes, 260 sheep, 1500 chicks and 750 fruit trees were distributed to the tsunami –victims in sixteen (16) villages both in Nagayalanka and Machilipatnam mandals. The people found this programme very beneficial to them. They are still getting additional income from the milk they get from the buffaloes, and by selling the sheep apart from getting nutritious food from the eggs and the seasonal fruits they get from fruit trees.

After from providing buffaloes to the tsunami victims, they were also given intensive training for three days at Pattabhi Ramaiah Hall, Machilipatnam, so that they may take good care of their livestock by providing timely and necessary health care. The training classes were conducted by expert veterinary doctors and government officials and they had fruitful interaction with the people, wherein the doubts expressed by the beneficiaries were clarified. All the buffaloes were duly insured and ten of the beneficiaries could receive insurance benefits when their buffaloes fell sick and died. Due to all these services our society (KISES) has gained credibility among the island villages of Nagayalanka Mandal and the coastal villages of Machilipatnam mandal, and received abounding cooperation from the people.



CONSTRUCTION OF TOILETS:



Open defecation is a major problem in the operational villages, which is one of the causes for contamination of water and thus causing diarrhea and other diseases. As the children faces lying in and around the houses, poor sanitation and personal hygiene the poor people are easy prey to the contagious diseases. As a solution to this problem, KISES came up with another programme of “building individual toilets”. According to this programme, each house will have a multipurpose toilet (i.e. used as bathroom and latrine) constructed. In total 205 toilets were constructed in 16 villages of 2 mandals of Nagayalanka and Machilipatnam, by which water contamination was considerably reduced and environment cleanliness enhanced and health hazards reduced.



MCH (Mother & Child) PROGRAMME

HEALTH PROGRAMMES:

The major development concern is health. Health produces wealth. With this conviction KISES has initiated and successfully implemented several programmes to promote health, especially in the remote villages of Nagayalanka and Machilptanam mandals. Health is one of the neglected sectors in our society and in the remote areas it is almost ignored. The rural women and children are easy pray to multiple diseases due to negligence of health. Indian women traditionally are expected to perform both productive and reproductive functions in the family, even at the cost of their health and KISES takes it as its primary responsibility to poster and protect the health of all the poor and the marginalized especially the women and children.

HEALTH CAMPS:

KISES conducted several health camps for women and children. The camps were conducted by qualified medical officers, in which check-up and diagnosis is done free of cost and required medicines are freely distributed. The people in the remote villages find these health camps very beneficial, as they live far from the hospitals or primary health centers and the private multi-speciality hospitals are beyond their reach. That is why our health camps always are well-attended and very successful. People find these sound health services placed at their door steps are very helpful and indeed life saving.



EYE CAMP:

Cataract is the most common problem among the elderly people in the villages. Since hospitals are in the away towns and cities and the treatment is expensive, they do not go to the hospitals and rather prefer to endure the suffering silently. Due to this kind of negligence some of them loose their eye sight in the early age itself. In order to address this problem KISES conducted few 'eye camps' in collaboration with C.B.M. Hospital, Vuyyuru a famous Christian hospital, having 100 years of experience in the service of the people, especially the poor. Some of the patients who were referred for surgery were helped by KISES to get the surgery done and their eye sight restored.



DENTAL CAMP:

Dental camps also were conducted exclusively for children in the schools and in the villages. Due to lack of awareness and cleanliness, children develop several dental problems and infections. In order to educate the school going children and children in the village several dental camps were organized, in which the children and the parents were taught dental hygiene and medicines along with tooth brushes and paste were freely distributed.



ANTENATAL CARE:

KISES provided 'Antenatal care' to the pregnant women in the villages, especially to the women of the island villages. 'Antenatal care' is taking every care of both the mother and the child, right from the moment of conception till the birth of the child. And in order to prevent infant mortality, KISES encourages and promotes 'institutional deliveries'.

HEALTH EDUCATION MEETINGS:

Health Educators of KISES have regular meetings with people in the operational village, to discuss health related issues with the people. Since, Health is of primary concern for KISES, it shows special interest in conducting the Health Education meetings in every village very frequently and tries to build up awareness with regard to community health. Our health educators have been successfully communicating this messages through their:-

- House Visits
- Community Meetings

The following are some of the main issues of discussion during the “Health Education Meetings”.

- Low cost nutrition
- Improved sanitation
- Birth spacing
- Various infectious diseases and its treatment and prevention
- Malnutrition among children
- Early child care
- STI/RTI and HIV/AIDS
- Family planning
- Discouraging child marriages.

HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:

Lack of nutritious food in the childhood leads to deficiency of vitamin-A, anemia and other diseases. On finding many children malnourished in the island villages and Machilipatnam, KISES started discussing this problem with the parents themselves and tried to resolve it. In our attempt to find solution to this problem, we encouraged our Health Educators to monitor the growth of the children in the villages every month and prepare respective “Growth Monitoring Charts”, through which they were able to bring awareness among the parents come to about the nutrition and its effect on the growth of their children. Thanks to the positive response of the parents, with in few months we could solve the problem of malnutrition among the children and the parents came to know now how to feed their children with balanced and nutritious diet.

CARE AND SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT AND LACTATING WOMEN

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POSTNATAL CARE:

After the delivery till the completion of six weeks postnatal care is provided by KISES to all the lactating mothers through home visits. Our team of Health Educators explain to the mothers the importance of personal hygiene, wrapping of the child, giving colostrums and not to give bath to the child till the completion of minimum three days and see to it that the new born child is properly immunized.

IMMUNISATION FOR CHILDREN:

Immunization is very essential for the children in order to protect them from diseases like Polio, DPT, HEPATITIS-B, MEASLES, etc. Immunization has to be given in appropriate time and in implementing this, KISES readily join hands with other stake holders like ICDS, ANM and AASHA etc in the UIP (University Immunization Programme) days.

GROWTH MONITORING:

The Health Educators of KISES monitor the growth of the children every month in every village, by measuring the weight of each child and record it carefully. If the children gradually losing weight, their parents are informed immediately and counsel them how important it is to give nutritious food to the growing children. The main objective of this programme is to reduce the cases of malnutrition among the children in the operational villages.



BIRTH REGISTRATION:

Due to lack of awareness, people, both in Nagayalanka mandal and Machilptanam mandal, do not register births in their respective panchayats and consequently losing several Government schemes. More over people are not aware that it is their right as a citizen of India to obtain their Birth Registration Certificate. KISES has taken initiative and discussed this issue with the people in the community meetings. With the intervention of KISES, 102 (One hundred and two) Birth Certificates were issued with in a month among the ten villages of Machilipatnam mandal. As per the rules and regulations of the Municipality Rs.10/- has to be paid as fee to register one's birth and Rs.50/- for issuing Birth Certificate. But KISES has negotiated with the Municipal Officials and got exemption from paying the fees by the above ten villages of Machilipatnam mandal.



CHILD MARRIAGES:

Child Marriages are more rampant in the remote villages due to superstitious beliefs and the traditions that are discriminative towards women in the society. Due to the awareness campaigns conducted by KISES and on the realization of the harm done especially to the girls the number of child marriages have been reduced considerably.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES – PREVENTION OF STI/RTI, HIV/AIDS:

HIV/AIDS is a major challenge for the health promotion interventions. To prevent this problem, the most vulnerable of STI/RTI are being referred to the concerned hospitals for treatment. KISES also conducts regular awareness meetings on HIV/AIDS and its health educators pay frequent visits to the needy people and give counseling to them and prepare them to go for treatment without hesitation.

PERSONAL HYGIENE AND PRACTICES:

Personal Hygiene is of vital importance in health issues. Many infectious diseases are caused due to lack of personal hygiene. Though medical care provides curative measures to the people when they are infected, personal hygiene

helps to prevent all kinds of infections. And hence the message that personal hygiene is essential for every one, is carried by the health educators of KISES, during their house visits and community meetings and brought about considerable change in the attitudes and practices of the people.

STRATEGIES:

- House Visits
- Community Meetings
- Referral services.

THE CHANGES WE BROUGHT IN THE COMMUNITY WITH OUR INTERVENTIONS:

- 100% children are immunized in our target areas.
- Increased awareness among the parents on birth registration.
- Increased institutional deliveries in the community.
- Increased exclusive breast feeding.
- Women and children of our target areas received multiple benefits from various medical camps we conducted.
- People know how to use toilets.
- Increased awareness among people of personal hygiene.

HEALTH CENTRE



KISES does not confine to conducting health education meetings and health camps occasionally. It is committed to make all the health care services available to the people even in

remote villages. We have observed in Machilipatnam mandal the practical difficulties being faced by people in times of emergency due to none accessibility of health care centre's or hospitals. Surprisingly there is not even a single primary health centre available with in the radius of 30 km (one PHC is at GUDURU) and people suffer very much due to non availability of medical services. Taking this into consideration, KISES has taken a decision to construct a HEALTH CENTRE at Pedapatnam village, one of the operational villages of Machilipatnam mandal. And through our constant efforts and negotiations with Tdh Foundation, Lausanne, Switzerland a donor agency, we could construct a Health Centre at Padapatnam village as planned. This centre can render health services to the surrounding 20-25 villages and nearly 27,000 people may avail these services if this health centre

functions regularly like full pledged hospital. Our donor agency Tdh has kindly helped us to construct the physical structure of the Health centre and the responsibility of running the centre is left to KISES, which has been trying to mobilize resources to make regular medical services available to the people. We are also trying to develop linkages with other NGO's and Government organizations and leaving no stone unturned in our efforts to run the Health centre regularly and effectively.



At present, one trained ANM renders health services at the centre during the day time. In times of emergency first aid is given to the sick persons, treat them with available medication, and refer them to the Govt. Hospital at Machilipatnam. Apart from this, health

camps are being conducted every month at the centre and special health camps like eye camp, dental camp and camp for diabetics are also conducted occasionally depends on the needs of the people and this is done through the cooperation of medical officers and the generosity of individual donors. Sincere efforts are being made to mobilize resources in order to run the centre regularly covering all the areas of health care. As part of our efforts sample medicines are being collected and individual donors are being mobilized, encouraging them to conduct special health camps in memory of their kith and kin etc. our future plan is to run the health center on regular basis.

Our health centre has seven rooms – one labour room, one lab room, two OP rooms, one IP room (in case of emergency) and other rooms for office purpose and it is equipped with all the necessary material and furniture. The doctors are willing to render their services



without any remuneration, as we have the required infrastructure and they could



see the genuineness of our efforts to make health services available to the poor in remote villages. But what we lack is financial assistance to run the health centre regularly in a perpetual way, for which we are constantly in search

of prospective donors. At present we are trying to collect free samples of medicines and distributing them to the patients who come to our health centre or who attend the medical camps conducted by us.

The following are some of the data regarding our services at the medical centre.

FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS:



Even though the focus of KISES has been primarily on socio-economic issues, it has not left any opportunity to participate in the Global campaign against HIV/AIDS in its operational area. The organization has conducted through its health workers several awareness programmes, both in Khammam rural mandal Machilipatnam and Nagayalanka mandals of

Krishna District. On various occasions, KISES along with its VDC's self help groups and children support groups, has brought out huge rallies and held public meetings in order to propagate the messages i.e., "Preventing HIV", AIDS IS NOT CONTAGEOUS", and "Social Boycotting of HIV positive is in human etc, through the art forms like skits, songs and dance.

In Khammam rural mandal KISES has organized few counseling sessions to the HIV positive people, where they could avail expert advice on appropriate medication, nutrition and right kind of mental disposition etc. KISES also distributed apart from medicines, necessary study material and clothes to the HIV positive children. And the health workers of KISES have continued the programme even after our operational area has been extended to Krishna District.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

TAILORING CENTRE:

Tailoring is a one of the conventional and easy way to earn a livelihood for the women in villages. Irrespective of caste, creed or education every women is eligible to learn tailoring and make it as a means of earning livelihood. An added advantage for the girls who are trained in tailoring and are able to support their families is that they are given preference in marriage and such women are given due respect and treated well by the in-laws as they too have become earning members of the family.

Usually, the women in the villages, after completing their household work, sit idle and spend their time chitchatting with neighbours or watching T.V. etc and thus wasting their valuable time and energy. In order to help such women to put their time and energy to productive work, KISES came up with a programme to motivate such women and give formal training in tailoring and embroidery. Both married and unmarried women are eligible to join this training programme, provided they have minimum standard of literacy and eager to learn new techniques in designing and stitching variety of dresses.

Twenty women were identified, selecting one woman from each target village for the two-month training in tailoring and embroidery. Individual attention is paid to each woman undergoing training and taught them how to cut and stitch the cloth as per the design and needs of the persons. The reason for selecting one woman per village for each batch is to provide equal opportunity to all the villages of the operational area and all the eligible members of the villages will be trained in the prescribed period of time. The women who could complete this training successfully are able to earn an additional income to support their families. For instance, if the husband is an agricultural labourer and his wife is trained in tailoring and embroidery, her earnings will be an added income to the daily wages of her husband. And the earnings of both combined will help them to lead a good and dignified life apart from enabling them to send their children to school. And this enhances the status of women in the families and proves that they are equal to men in learning, earning and sharing the responsibilities of the family.

Two women instructors have been appointed, one for teaching cutting and tailoring and the other for embroidery. Altogether twenty sewing machines are provided for the two training centre's, ten in each centre and all the essential material and accessories for training are being provided to the beneficiaries. Two class rooms are allotted for this purpose, one for tailoring and another for cutting.

RELIEF OPERATIONS DURING THE DISASTERS

The disaster of massive floods struck both Krishna and Guntur districts, in which several people died and hundreds of people lost their houses, properties including domestic utensils and even clothes and were literally thrown on to the streets.

KISES responded to the emergency situation and immediately visited all the affected areas, identified the most affected villages and decided to provide interim relief to the people of those villages who are desperately in need of help. Even though there is no agency ready to fund for relief operations which we are obliged to take up, we on behalf of KISES, decided to take up relief works in the flood-affected areas of Krishna and Guntur districts. So far, KISES is operating mostly in island villages and not on plain areas. But, by taking up this relief work on the plains it is doubly proved that we are not confined only to the island villages, but KISES is always ready to go out of its way to serve and support the poor and the marginalized. Accordingly, we visited all the flood-hit areas and identified four most affected villages for our relief operations. The following are the four villages:

- South Chiruvurulanka – Krishna District.
- Edlalanka – Krishna District.
- Regulalanka – Krishna District.
- Voleru – Guntur District.

KISES, as part of its relief operation, distributed to each of the affected family – one blanket, on saree, one towel, two breads and water packets. We have covered all the four villages, distributed the relief kits to 50 families each in South Chiruvuru Lanka, Edla Lanka, Regula Lanka – of Krishna district and to 100 families in Voleru village – of Guntur district as it was the worst affected of all the inundated villages.

TOTAL COVERED FAMILIES AND VILLAGES FOR INTERIM RELIEF IN THE FLOODS:

In addition to the relief-kits distributed to 250 families in four villages both in Krishna and Guntur districts, with the support of Tdh, KISES distributed the following food items to 1519 families in the Nine island villages of Nagayalanka mandal of Krishna District.

Rice	-	20 kg's
Potato	-	5 kgs
Tamarind	-	1 kg
Dal	-	2 kgs
Oil	-	1 kg
Salt	-	1 kg
Chilli powder	-	1 kg



Total number of families and villages received interims relief:

AGRICULTURE WORKS

During the natural calamities like cyclones and floods – the agriculture is the worst hit sector and the farmers become the ready victims losing practically every thing, like the crops, the cattle, at times they lose their shelters too and suddenly find themselves in utterly miserable condition. Having lost every thing the farmers will be caught up easily in the cob-web of debts and thoroughly exploited by money lenders. Their income goes down to the lowest level and the troubles get compounded and as a consequence the children from the farming families discontinue their education and the school drop out ratio increases and it leads to some other complex social problems. Having sensed the gravity of the situation, KISES planned a programme which helps the flood hit farmers to generate income through alternative means of production.

SEED DISTRIBUTION:

Free distribution of seeds to the farmers in the flood affected areas has been taken up and effectively implemented by KISES and this helped the farmers to go for the next crop immediately without wasting much time and without brooding over the irrevocable damage caused by the disaster. The response to the programme was over whelming that almost all the farmers opted for the next crop immediately with the help of the seeds distributed freely, and got the crop in abundance and were extremely grateful to KISES for saving one year income. With that experience, the farmers in the operational villages, developed strong affinity with KISES and started participating in all the awareness camps and extend their full cooperation to all the activities being initiated by the organization for the benefit of the poor and the needy.



SEWING MACHINES AND OTHER MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

Not only farmers but also people from other walks of life, affected by floods were provided their livelihood machineries like sewing machines, shoe – making materials and tri-cycles etc.

SEWING MACHINES were distributed to those who depend on tailoring for their livelihood;

SHOE MAKING MATERIALS distributed among those to whom shoe making is the only means of livelihood.



RICKSHAW – CYCLES are distributed to the poor and Dalit peoples.



REHABILITATION PROGRAM IN THE CYCLONE AFFECTED VILLAGES

The disastrous cyclone badly affected the island villages of Edurumondi Panchayat, Nagayalanka mandal, Krishna District. Even though KISES organized relief works in selected villages, in order to bring life back to normalcy some thing has to be done. And hence, KISES had taken up rehabilitation works in the cyclone – hit island villages.

BOAT REPAIRS:



The worst affected villages of the island were on the banks of the river Krishna and most of the people belong to fisher men community, and fishing is the only means of livelihood for them. But, due to cyclone almost all the fishing

boats got severely damaged and thus infringing the livelihood of the people. In order to restore normalcy to the devastated fishing community, KISES came forward with a rehabilitation programme and got ninety four (94) boats repaired, which helped the fishermen to start earning their livelihood as usual.

NEW FISHING NETS:



Most of the fishermen got their fishing nets damaged beyond repair and some of them lost their nets along with their boats and thatched houses. On seeing the fishermen in such a miserable and helpless condition, KISES distributed 258 fishing nets among the fishermen in the island villages.

ICE BOXES:

As fish is a perishable product, the fishermen of the island villages require ice boxes to preserve the fish they caught, at least for one day, so that they may get good price at the market which is on the mainland Nagaya lanka. Keeping this need in mind KISES distributed 258 ice boxes to the fishermen of the nine villages which were the worst hit habitats by the cyclone.



NIGHT LAMPS:



Due to the devastation of the cyclone, fishermen lost their night lamps also, which are very essential for fishing at Night time. Usually majority of fishermen go out for fishing during night time, and hence night lamps are of vital importance while fishing and to find their way back home. Having realized the importance of the lamps, KISES distributed 258 night lamps to the fishermen of the island villages along with fishing nets, ice boxes etc.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

In the operational area of KISES, there are six schools, five of them Govt. schools and one run by Christian missionaries. Among the five Government schools only one is upper primary school, while the rest are primary schools.

OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of the school development programme is to improve the quality of education in the schools, especially in the Government run schools. And in order to realize it's objective KISES provided the following to each and every school in its operational area:

- Indoor and outdoor play material to all the schools.
- Different types of TLM (Teaching learning material).
- Books, material both for indoor games and outdoor games, chairs and benches required for class rooms.
- Iron safes and racks.

With this improved infrastructure, the children's attendance at schools has been considerably increased and children started taking active part in various development activities both at the school and in the village. For example the awareness programmes are being conducted at the schools through the "support groups" in which the students take active part. And different committees operate very effectively for the development of the school, thanks to the active participation of the students.



CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL TOILETS:

As part of the infrastructural development at the schools, KISES decided to provide “Toilet Facilities” to all the six schools in the operational area. Accordingly it constructed three toilets in every school, one for boys, the second one for girls and the third one for the staff of the school. All the toilets were constructed and maintained well with hygienic conditions. It was not the intention of KISES, to construct toilets and leave the maintenance vaguely to others. But instead, KISES itself took initiative to motivate the students and form them into different committees and entrusting them with different responsibilities by encouraging them to spend their time and energy for the development of their schools. Even teachers have a due role to play in the development committee. Thanks to the effective functioning of the maintenance committees, the toilets in all the schools are being maintained very well even today.



KITCHEN GARDEN PROMOTION IN THE SCHOOL PREMISES:



KISES initiated another programme to bring awareness among the children, about of Nutritious food and Nutritional components and how to produce them in kitchen garden all by themselves in the school premises. The school managements and teachers extended their full support to the programme. And “child support groups”, already formed to maintain toilets properly and for other development activities, came forward

with enthusiasm and started “kitchen gardens” in their respective schools. With regard to one of the schools, the District Collector saw the way it was functioning, the facilities provided to teachers and children alike and above all the “the kitchen garden” developed by “Child Support Groups” under the initiative and guidance of KISES – and was very much impressed and immediately sanctioned their long pending plea to make it a high school. And it is a flourishing and progressing high school in Edurumondi island today. And it also reflects the positive results of the progressive efforts initiated by KISES among the island villages.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



KISES has focused its attention on the environmental issues too, as they are directly related to the public health in the operational area i.e., Edurumondi island. Though these island villages are far from urbanization and pollution etc, it has different set of problems like deforestation, cutting trees indiscriminately for firewood, lack of proper waste management and several other ecological problems. In order to bring about an awareness among the people of the island villages, KISES organized several rallies, public meetings, competitions and other events and could make people think of their role in protecting their environment. Even though the organization could not take up any concrete activity with regard to environment so far, it could only conduct awareness campaigns in different villages of the operational area.

RALLIES WITH CHILDREN:

Several public rallies with school children were conducted in the island villages in order to bring awareness among people on the issue of “environmental protection”.



MEETINGS WITH WOMEN GROUPS:



The issue of the “environmental protection” has been discussed in the meetings of the women groups and they were motivated to see the link between the environment and the well being of the community. The organization (KISES) could bring awareness among the women groups and they expressed their willingness to work for environmental protection as one of their primary responsibilities.

COMMUNITY PLANTATION:

As part of the environment protection programme, KISES initiated “community plantation”, in which each family has to plant at least one plant each either at their houses or on the road side areas and should water it regularly and protect it with proper fencing. KISES also motivated people to name the plant after the names of their loved ones either passed away or still alive and nurture the plant(tree) as one of their beloved family members. This concept was effectively communicated to the people by the volunteers of KISEES and the people came forward whole heartedly to plant more than one plant in the loving memory of their ancestors and started nurturing their plants as their beloved ones. If you enter the island villages today you will find on the margins of the roads the “ancestor-trees” greeting you with a smile and you will find people relaxing under the cool shade of the “beloved-trees”.



WASH PROJECT

KISES has been associated with Tdh organization for the past six years and implemented many programmes together. It has been a very fruitful and successful association. We could gain good knowledge and experience by working with Tdh. Earlier we joined hands in implementing development projects like MCH (Mother and Child Health) and livelihood project successfully. And now, Tdh came forward to associate itself with us (KISES) in implementing WASH project in our operational area of the Edurumondi Island. The WASH project commenced in the year 2010, with the main objective of promoting sanitation and personal hygiene both in the community and at the schools. In order to achieve this target we motivated the people of the Island villages and all the students and teachers of the five government schools in the operational area. And hygienic toilets were built at the schools and at every individual house with the cooperation of the beneficiaries. Since Edurumondi island had been the operational area of KISES for quite some time, where MCH programme was implemented successfully, people were enthusiastic and cooperative with our organization with regard to WASH project.

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide sanitation facilities in schools as well as at the individual houses.
- To make safe drinking water available both to children in the schools and the people in the villages.

- To increase hand washing practices.
- To develop 100% sanitation in the island villages.

STRATEGIES:

- House visits
- CIS meetings (Community Information Session)
- FGDs (Focus Group Discussions)
- Demonstrations of Hand washing practice.
- Sharing of experiences by those who succeeded in sanitation efforts.

CHANGES BROUGHT BY KISES AMONG PEOPLE:

- Increased usage of toilets and open defecation reduced.
- Steady increase in the awareness levels with regard to cleanliness among the children and the people of the island villages. The Global Hand Washing Day was celebrated in 2010 and 2012.
- Increased awareness of washing hands at a particular place at home or at school, so that the waste water passes towards kitchen garden.
- Increased usage of long handler for taking water from the water container to prevent water contamination.
- Kitchen gardens through waste water being promoted.
- Formation and strengthening of VDC's(Village Development Committee) in the villages.
- Distribution of certificates to the beneficiaries of the individual toilets, in order to make them feel more responsible to maintain personal hygiene effectively.
- Distribution of coconut plants to toilet beneficiaries, to make them realize the importance of plantation and to prevent stagnation of waste water around the house.
- Formation and strengthening of child support groups. Training the children in communicating WASH messages, effectively through art forms like skits, songs, group dances etc. Through this the children will also become the change agents in the society.
- Usage of toilets at the school and keep them in hygienic condition. Involvement of students, parents and teachers in maintenance of school toilets by appointing a sweeper and paying for the services from the Common fund collected from the students.
- Formation and strengthening of hygiene committees in all the schools and entrusting all the responsibilities to the committee members.
- Demonstration of Nutrition programme in all the villages.

KEY INTERVENTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

100% SANITATION IN THE VILLAGES:

The main objective of this project is to discourage open defecation and increase the usage of toilets. In the process of realizing the objective KISES has newly constructed 328 individual toilets and repaired 236 existing non-functioning toilets in the operational villages. KISES did not satisfy itself with the construction of toilets, but motivated the people (the beneficiaries) through its Health workers to make proper use of their individual toilets to maintain personal hygiene and sanitation in the villages. As a result of the awareness campaign and sincere efforts made by KISES, 90% of people in the island villages are using the toilets and only 10% of people are yet to use the toilets. But, KISES is hopeful that even the 10% of people will start using toilets and stop open defecation very soon. We are also hoping to reach the 100% target by strengthening VDC's and children support groups, through which we will be able to identify and motivate the non-users of the toilets. Thanks to the dedicated efforts by VDC's and children support groups – it would not be long before we achieve 100% results in terms of Toilet usage.

HAND WASHING PRACTICE:



Hand washing is very important part of personal hygiene. The awareness levels were very low with regards to hygiene and sanitation among the people of the island villages, before KISES initiated “WASH PROJECT”. The health workers of KISES focused their attention on the importance of “Hand washing” during their house visits, CIS meetings, one to one sessions and other meetings, while delivering wash messages.

In the schools too, KISES gave priority to the WASH project and Hand washing practice. The Health workers have conducted demonstration classes in the school both for teachers and children on the Hand washing practice and prepared a group of students to give ‘demo’ before the community of people of the island villages. With the help of IEC material, the Health workers of KISES along with child support groups explained very well the benefits of hand washing and of the various diseases the contract people if hand washing is neglected. The school teachers too were attracted towards this project and they themselves took initiative to conduct demo's and separate classes to the students on personal hygiene and Hand washing practice. We found that there was consistent growth in awareness among the



people due to the demonstrations given by children (students) and the constant efforts made by the children support groups in the respective communities.

The following are the strategies followed by KISES to increase the Hand wash practice successful within the island communities and in the schools.

- Live demonstrations by Health workers and school children.
- Involvement of teachers and getting regular sessions conducted by them on the subject.
- Explaining the evil effects of “Non-Hand washing” on critical timings through IEC materials etc.



PLANTATION:



The people were also motivated that hand washing at home must be done at a particular place and the waste water should not be allowed to stagnate. In order to absorb the waste water, at least one plant should be planted at each house. The Health workers of KISES, by their house visits and community

meetings could motivate people and monitor them so that Hand washing is done properly at a particular place and they plant at least one plant to absorb the waste water. Thus KISES constantly followed it up and taken steps to implement the WASH Project properly by the people of Island villages.



USAGE OF LONG HANDLER FOR CONSUMING DRINKING WATER:



There was no practice, among the people, of using the long handler for consumption of drinking water. Earlier people, while consuming drinking water, used to put their



hands directly into the water container without even washing their hands properly. KISES has brought about a change in their



attitude and they started using long handlers for consumption of drinking water, covering the vessels containing food and other eatables, to prevent contamination. The people were also well aware of keeping their houses and surroundings clean and stopped throwing waste material and faeces of children in front of their houses. Water filters were supplied to all the families in two villages viz. Zinkapalem and

Gollamanda and the people of those two villages have no need to use long handlers. But, in the rest of the island villages, at least 75% of people use long handlers for consumption of drinking water and the health workers of KISES are trying different ways and means to change the attitudes of all the people (100%) to use long handlers and prevent water contamination.

PROMOTING KITCHEN GARDEN THROUGH WASTE WATER:



Earlier, the people in the island villages were not aware of developing a kitchen garden at their houses and make use of waste water to nurture the plants. But, KISES was successful in bringing about an awareness among the people about developing kitchen garden around their houses and nurture it with properly channelized waste water. Consequently

more than 70% families in the island villages have developed kitchen gardens around their houses and making good use of waste water to nurture the gardens and preventing water stagnation. The Health workers of KISES are continuing their efforts to attain 100% results in promoting kitchen gardening.



FORMATION AND STRENGTHENING OF VDC'S:



VDC – Village Development Committee – is a vital organ at the grass root level to sustain and continue various development activities. In the beginning when we came up with the idea of forming VDC's there was not much response from the people. Even though the committees were formed, they did not take an active part in promoting various development activities. Even attendance at the VDC meetings used to be very poor and the

members used to feel that they are only nominal members and they have no

significant role to play in the process of village development. It is here KISES once again motivated the members of VDC's and told them that they are the leaders of all the development activities of the village and started getting the certificates to the beneficiaries of the toilets distributed by the VDC members only. And that made the members of VDC's feel important and honoured and started playing active role in the development process of activities in their respective villages. The VDC members meet every fortnight and review the progress of various activities and identify new issues and problems and sort out a plan of action to resolve the issues for the development of their villages. As per the vision of KISES the



federation of VDC's is supposed to replace the organization (KISES) and run the development activities in the operational area all by itself by obtaining necessary funds from the Government. And



accordingly, efforts are being made to form a FEDERATION OF VDC's to monitor and ultimately take over the development programmes initiated and continued so far by KISES.

CERTIFICATES TO THE BENEFICIARIES OF TOILETS:

INTRODUCITON



KIRANMAI SOCIO EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY (KISES) is working for the last 5 years in Edurumondi Island villages implementing various development programmes especially among the women and children. At present, it is implementing WASH PROJECT in all the villages of Edurumondi Island. As part of this project, KISES

constructed 236 new toilets and got repaired 328 non-functioning toilets and motivated the people to make proper use of the toilets and discouraged open defecation. Majority of the people of the Island villages responded positively and stopped open defecation and started using their individual toilets only and maintaining them well as per the guidelines of the organization. To such



beneficiaries of the toilets, KISES thought of distributing certificates of appreciation. And a Pass book was also given to them to note down the details of maintenance of the toilets and of the kitchen gardens. To the first batch of beneficiaries of toilets, we got the Certificates distributed by the Mandal Development Officer (MDO) of Nagayalanka, who appreciated the work done by the NGO and the way people participated in the process of development. To the other beneficiaries of toilets, we got the certificates distributed by VDC's of the respective villages.

OBJECTIVES:

- To focus upon the importance of the usage of toilets
- To create awareness of the ill effects of open defecation.
- To make the beneficiaries feel more responsible for the usage and maintenance of their individual toilets.

FREE DISTRIBUTION OF COCONUT PLANTS TO THE BENEFICIARIES OF TOILETS:



KISES has distributed 350 coconut plants to the beneficiaries of newly built toilets. And soon this benefit will be extended to the beneficiaries of renovated or repaired toilets. As we have already explained elsewhere – the people of the island villages are motivated not to waste water and make use of the waste water to grow various plants in one kitchen garden. And in order to encourage the beneficiaries of the individual toilets to grow suitable plants to absorb waste water, KISES distributed one coconut plant each to the 350 beneficiaries of the newly built toilets, from its own resources. As we succeed in mobilizing sufficient funds, we will be able to distribute coconut plants to all the beneficiaries of the toilets, including those who got motivated by our organization and got their non-functional or unused toilets repaired.

FORMATION AND STRENGTHENING OF CHILD SUPPORT GROUPS:



KISES has formed child support groups in all the schools of the operational villages. The main objective behind the formation of the child support groups is to give proper training to the school children on the wash project and to pass on the wash messages through the children to their families and to bring about a radical change in the attitudes of their family members and members of their communities. In fact, KISES has the intention of channelizing all the development activities through the

child support groups in all the operational villages. That is the reason why KISES has given intensive training to the school children on “WASH MESSAGES” through art forms like skits, songs, group dances etc. And through these well trained child support groups and school hygiene committees, we were able to monitor the children at the school whether they are using the toilets or not, whether they are following strictly the rules of personal hygiene or not etc. We have also supplied note books to the school hygiene committees to take note of the toilet users and other details of hygienic conditions at the school.



USAGE OF SCHOOL TOILETS BY CHILDREN:

KISES has constructed three toilets each in all the six schools in the operational area, one for the girls, one for the boys and one for the teachers. In one of the schools an additional toilet was built as per the strength of the schools. And that makes 19 toilets in total built by KISES in the island school. The organization did not limit itself with mere construction of toilets, but taken the responsibility of training the children to make use of the toilets properly. Another issue at the schools is the maintenance the toilets. Individual toilets in the villages will be maintained by the individual beneficiaries. But who will take the responsibility of maintaining the toilets at the schools? This has become a very crucial question. It was discussed in PTA meeting and decided to appoint a sweeper for the maintenance of the toilets and children and the parents will be motivated to bear the cost of maintenance. Accordingly KISES has conducted several meetings with school children and parents and succeeded in motivating them to pay a nominal amount of Rs.50/- per annum per child, towards maintenance of the toilets. The amount thus collected was deposited in the post office savings account in the name of one of the parents and one of the teachers of the school. The account will be operated by them jointly and the honorarium for the sweeper and other expenses will be paid from this amount. All the six schools in the operational villages are responding well to this proposal and maintaining the toilets by themselves without any difficulty and helping to maintain the sanitation of the island.

MEETING WITH ADOLESCENT GIRLS:



KISES also has conducted meetings with adolescent girls of the villages separately in order to explain to them the need to take care of their personal hygiene and to emphasize on the special care to be taken during the critical timings. And these meetings are conducted with the help of IEC material.

NUTRITION DEMO:

KISES has conducted the “Demonstrations of Nutrition (Nutrition Demo’s) in all the villages of the operational area, to focus on the importance of nutrition. After these demonstrations, we could see a dramatic change in the food habits of the people in the villages. Earlier the people were not aware of the importance of leafy vegetables and seldom use them in their diet. But after the Nutrition Demo’s, people started growing leafy vegetables in their kitchen gardens and make them essential part of their diet.

CELEBRATION OF SPECIAL DAYS:

KISES always encourages VDC’s, women’s groups, child support groups and all the people of the island villages to celebrate the special days like – Women’s Day, World Water Day, World Environment Day, World Toilet Day, Global Hand Washing Day and Ozone Day Celebrations – focusing on the importance of that particular day.



“EDURUMONDI ”

A GOD FORSAKEN ISLAND

“Edurumondi” is an island of river Krishna, on the western side of Nagayalanka mandal, Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, India. Having an area of Eight square kilometers, Edurumondi has eight villages with a total population of 7500 people in which 70% belong to fisherman community, 20% to shepherd community, 9% to Dalit communities and 1% to migrants from various parts of the mainland. And 60 to 70% people of the island are illiterate. Fishing in the fishermen community, which of livelihood for the 70% of the families in the fisherman community, while the rest live as agricultural labourers. As the island is cut off from the main land by river Krishna, Ferry is the only means of transportation to reach the island. And on reaching the island, majority of the people go on foot to reach their respective villages, while some choose to go by shared autos with 20 to 30 people on board each auto, a spine – chilling ride indeed. Only few people have the luxury of owning Scooties/Mopeds, the common mode of private transportation seen in the island. No hotel, no shopping complexes, no cinema of Edurumondi, except ill-equipped grocery shops and thatched houses known to provide food on payment, which are locally called “Ppootakoolla Illu (Houses that provide meal for that part of the day)”. It is due to lack of facilities and basic amenities, the people from the mainland usually call Edurumondi “A God Forsaken Island”. But for us, the people of KISES (KIRANMAYI SOCIO EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY), Edurumondi is a precious, God – given operational area, a place to live and serve. KISES was the one of the NGO to visit the island after tsunami 2004. Other NGO’s government agencies too rushed to the island villages and distributed food, clothed and medicines and left the place. The only difference between other NGO’s and KISES was that KISES did not leave the place or the people soon after they received relief measures, but stayed on with the people to interact with them and to sort out long term and short term plans for rehabilitation and sustained development. And accordingly KISES has taken up Mother and Child health programme for medical camps, house repairs, construction of toilets, livestock, chicks and fruit trees distribution for the community after KISES has taken up repairing of the fishing boats and fishing nets, repairing and reconstructing the damaged houses, and providing alternative means of livelihood etc. KISES could gain the confidence of the sincerity and transparency. Thus we were able to initiate other programs of development as well like literacy, community health, sanitation and hygiene, with the cooperation and collaboration of the people. Thanks to the efforts of VDC’s (Village Development Committees) children support Groups at schools; KISES could implement the WASH project in the island villages with great success. Edurumondi, KISES now confidently and proudly announces that it is no more “God forsaken island but “GOD’s beloved island”! <http://www.tdh.ch/en/news/india-children-from-the-disaster-capital-regain-a-safe-environment>

APPEAL:

KISES has been achieving tangible results through the various activities implemented in the operational communities of the Dalits and the Tribals. The organization has also brought about considerable changes in the thinking patterns and attitudes of the poor to help themselves instead of depending on others. And a change for the better is clearly seen in the way of life, social status and awareness levels among the beneficiaries of various initiatives of KISES and they are confident now to face any challenges in life either natural or socio economical.

But still, there is a wide gap between what we have achieved so far and our ultimate goal i.e, to bring about comprehensive development in the lives of the poor and the marginalized in the society.

The vision to which KISES is committed and the path it has chosen for its journey is a very difficult one. But, we firmly believe that the journey would be made easier and the vision would certainly be realized if likeminded people, philanthropists, well wishers and, donors come forward and join hands with us.

And hence, we, the Executive Director, the office bearers, the members of the Executive Body, the members of the General Body of KISES, jointly and humbly appeal to all the readers of this brochure to join hands with us and help us to help the poor and under the privileged people of our society.

All your generous donations may be sent by Cash/DD/Cheque/MO/NEFT/RTGS/Online crediting. Our bank details Andhra Bank, Online SB Account No: 087710011006908, IFS Code No: ANDB0000877, drawn in favour of KIRANMAYI SOCIO EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY, or send your donations to the address given in this brochure. The organization is also registered under 12A of income tax act and the office will send official acknowledgement soon after it receives your precious donations. Thanking you in anticipation.

CONTACT US:

Address : Admn. Office, #54-20/9-10A, Srinagar Colony,
VIJAYAWADA – 520 008. Krishna Dist., Andhra Pradesh, INDIA.

Contact person : Mrs. Rajani Suram, Executive Director

Telephone : +91 0866 2541720

Cell : +91 94405 73842

E-Mail : kises1999@yahoo.co.in

Web Site : <http://www.kisesngo.org>

KIRANMAYI SOCIO EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY STAFF & Tdh Officials



Cock Marching

- Kiranmayi Socio Educational Society(KISES)

LEADERSHIP