



MUTHAMIL EDUCATION and RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Annual Report – BENG PROJECTS - 2020 April to March 2021

General:

2020: Last year was the Year of Covid. This affected the lives of our BenG-village people in a big way. Not only did a lot of men and women lose their jobs and income as they work as day-laborers. No job done = no income. But people also suffered during the long periods of total-lockdown. There was not enough good-quality food for everyone; all the schools and colleges were closed; the BenG microcredit projects stopped being fruitful as there was no way of marketing the products.

We would like to thank BenG and all the Dutch and international donors for their donations. BenG provided for 6 rounds of food packages with rice, vegetables, cooking oil and groceries to the 115 families who are connected to MERDS and BenG. This helped to cope for over 100 days with the crisis and to survive. Our volunteers were very much helpful for supplying the food materials among village people and they were highly precautioned while entering in to the villages. The village communities and the district administration have appreciated our organization for helping the people during this crises. We and the people community thank BENG for having done the major food help during emergency situation and saved their lives.



Thank you BenG!! It meant a lot to us.

When in December 2020 lockdown was relieved the DOC children enjoyed at least one good meal per day at the DOC. Students who could participate in online classes by coming to the DOC joined in as well. The women involved in micro credit projects could pick up production and sales. DOC organized a few hours of study and play for the youngest children. Even the Tailoring Unit picked up activities again.

But only for a while As I write this report (April/May 2021) the next wave of Covid hits India and the number of casualties is beyond belief. All schools, shops, work and public life stopped again. Hence there is again lot of restrictions in Tamil Nadu and all over the country. People are anxious on hearing such news and we are encouraging them to follow the rules of wearing masks, washing hands and distance keeping etc.

Chapter - 1: MICRO CREDITS

The CFK PROJECT:

Before the 2020-lockdown the CFK beneficiaries were busy keeping their animals good and making reasonable milk selling with the marketer. During lockdown the CFK women could not market their milk as the milk vendors did not visit their villages anymore. So they didn't make any profit and maintaining their family livelihood was very difficult. There were no alternative jobs for the women to get employment for their survival.

As from January 2021 all the people were happy and started their routine works. The small business of our people began fast and the marketing facilities were increased. The transportation and traveling were enabled. Hence, the milk cows began to yield regular milk and the women earned reasonable money from their milk selling and repaid the loan as per norms. We got reasonable seasonal rainfall in 2020 so we hope there won't be any water crises in the current year.

However as from March onwards we are confronted with the second corona attack and now it is peak in Tamil Nadu.



The Palm Leaves knitting:

The micro credit loan of Rs 5000 to 16 women in Satram village was given in October 2019. In 2020 the women performed well on production and marketing their Palm leaves. They have repaid their loan installments for 7 months and hope to repay the rest as per schedule. These women were also the victims of corona and couldn't manage the business properly in 2020. After a short period of relaxation the marketing viabilities were good and the people began to earn

reasonable money again. We have provided the health care awareness education to all these families in our target area.

Likewise, another 12 women who are engaging in palm leaf production were given Rs 5000 loan each for a period of 12 months). They were doing well and already repaid 3 months in 2021.

As the second Covid attack lead to complete lockdown again these women will not be able to buy raw materials – nor market their products in the current situation.



CHAPTER- 2: DROP OUT CENTRE

In 2020 our DOC center was the key factor to provide educational support to the children who were unable to attend the schools due to corona attack. As they have no access to online or digitalized education they risked to lose a whole year of education. However, our teachers were able to teach the actual lessons on their curriculum in special small classes in the DOC and made them fit for the next class. Even during Corona period our teachers were sitting among them and continued their teaching. Even the government schools were unable to do this for their children!!

We did not only provide the school education but also one good meal per day. Our cook cooked food without any hesitation and supplied on time. Our volunteers get involved in all our village ventures without any hesitation. We have visited all our DOC children's home and encouraged the parents on safe living and securing livelihood opportunities.

The parents are very happy on knowing their children have passed their class but with true knowledge on their subjects.

BENG provided the food packages to the beneficiaries. The timely help saved 115 families with suitable food materials for a period of 3 months during the 2020 corona attack. All our DOC children and families were saved thanks to this help by BENG.

Our DOC students and staff are conveying their hearty gratitude to BENG for all the help they have provided.



Total number of students at DOC 2020-21 March

6 th standard	Male-3	Female – 5	8		
7 th Standard	Male -3	Female - 5	8		
8 th Standard	Male -3	Female - 6	9		
9 th Standard	Male - 3	Female -6	9		
10 th standard	Male - 2	Female- 7	9		
11 th standard	Male-3	Female -3	6		
12 th standard	Male-1	Female-	1		
Hence the total	Male = 18	Female =32	50		

CHAPTER-3: BURSARY PROJECT:

For the year 2020-2021, we have provided scholarships to 11 students. There are 10 regular college students and one young schoolgirl Pachaiyammal. The list is as below:

1. Pachaiyammal R2016-49 High School Natham 9th standard (school student)
2. S.Banupriya R2017-50 NPR College Natham B.COM.CA

3. S.Anucia	R2017 -56	Thiruchy colleges B.SC Computer
4. Nandhini	R2017-57	M.K.University Madurai B.COM, CA
5. Shobanadevei	R2017-58	Higher secondary School Natham
6. N.Yuvakarthika	R2017-59	Meenakshi College Madurai B.A History
7. K.Mani	R2018- 62	SBM College of Engineering B.E. Dindigul
8 Gayatri	8R201964	CMA Nat.Management college, Erode
9 Nagalaksmi	9R2019-69	Sacred Heart College Rediapatty B.COM
10 Sangavi	11R2019-66	NPR College Natham B.SC PHYSICS
11. kavitha	R2020-67	V.Kavitha (ex-student R2017-54) new in 2020/2021) coaching institution Government Job exams at Madurai.

During the first lockdown the bursary students were given opportunity to use our DOC to continue their daily class online. The WIFI along with laptop arrangements were also made for them. Thanks to Mrs.Ariane who helped us buy a new laptop for the purpose. We facilitated our bursary students to study their daily lessons and it helped them to get pass on all their on-line examinations too. The bursary students and the parents are thanking BENG and convey their gratitude for the timely help rendered to their children.

The 10 students received their regular scholarship of 15000RS for the year 2020-2021. An additional scholarship of Rs 10000 was give to 6 students who were unable to pay the fees for the second semester. *We are very much thankful to BENG for supporting them to continue their studies in the colleges. They hope that as soon as they complete their course period, they will attain good job in future.*



Chapter: 4 MGC- MERDS GARMENT CENTRE.

We are again trying to create opportunities for our MGC women and give life to the center. During Corona this failed; even the big companies in Natham town were unable to run their production unit due to government strict rules and therefor poor labor attendance. However we will keep trying to start a skill-training unit once we get the government permission. We approached FORD International Company to provide us the CSR project. We have applied for the training and got through the first screening. The results will hopefully be declared soon, although this very strict actual lockdown may postpone decisions. If we get this training project, we will be able to train the women on sewing and garment making for a period of 2 years. Batchwise trainings will be provided and we will be paid for the

training facilities and implementation of the lessons. Through this income we can repay the loan for the sewing machine(s).



MERDS

Uluppagudi (Post), Natham (Taluk),
Dindigul District,
TamilNadu, India-624401 www.merds.org.in

 +91 9080573854
 +91 9159989958

We thank BENG FOR THEIR WONDERFUL SERVICE AND BLESSINGS FOR THE GLOBAL HUMAN WELFARE.