



We Care

NEWS & VIEWS

SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

Issue - 3 (2005 - 06)

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2005

A Housing Movement

Ruby Jubilee Housing Programme Inaugurated

Ruby Jubilee Housing – the housing project supported by SAFFP was inaugurated on May 21, 2005 at Aiswarayagram, Parapuram by Ms. Lois Cote, board member, SAFFP-Canada. The project was launched in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of SAFFP. It aims at constructing 500 houses in 100 villages of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu with the involvement of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), 38 NGOs and over 200 SHGs. CIDA and SAFFP Canada together will contribute Rs.1 Crore and the remaining will be mobilized from financial institutions, housing boards, panchayati raj institutions, SHGs etc.



Ms Lois Cote inaugurating the Housing Programme

Inaugurating the project, Ms. Cote said that poverty is human made and we have the responsibility to end it. Fr. Augustine Bharanikulangara (Director-SAFP-India), chaired the function and Dan Grace, (King University, Canada), Dr. Sunny George (Lymnological Association) and K.P John (Vijayapuram Social Service Society) were felicitated at the function. The regional coordinators of SAFFP were also participated in the function

The project will ensure Community models creation, women participation, mobilization of social and community supports, SHG strengthening, participatory approaches, Environment Impact Assessment, etc.



A house is everything for Thayyil Joseph Jose from Perumbadavu

Participatory Action Research (PAR) is a new initiative taken up at the level of NGO partners in collaboration with SAFFP & Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). It is in the light of the prospective role shifts and acquisition of new capacities of NGOs that Participatory Action Research approach is opted by SAFFP and the partner NGOs. Systematic and scientific understanding and learning of the problems have been given more importance in this approach.

Processes in Progress

1. Workshop on Action Research designing at SAFFP level

A workshop conducted in a participatory manner with several group activities, discussions and analysis. The findings of the discussions and deliberations were documented then and there and handouts were prepared for further reference for facilitators and the research team.

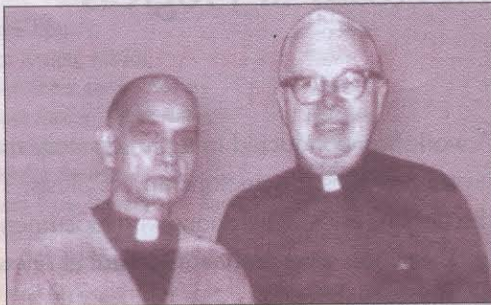
2. Understanding of research problem

As part of the research questions that would help the analysis of the housing problem of the poor were identified. The analysis was made with the help of problem tree and force field analysis tools. As a result, it came to light that the absence of real facilitation and social support processes contribute to the incidence of lack of housing of the poor.



Factors in Design and Estimate Preparation:

- Availability of materials for house construction at the local level
- Technological options made by the beneficiary such as width of the inner walls, use of interlocking bricks, technology of using less quantity of cement and steel, etc
- Availability of old and used materials such as timber, tiles, bricks etc in the locality at reduced costs
- Possibility of using own labour at different stages of construction
- Production of mud bricks at the site by the beneficiaries and the Sangham.
- Possible sources and amount of money which can be mobilized and the procedures and terms and conditions to be undergone by the beneficiary
- Construction materials already collected over a period of time by the family such as collection of sand from near by streams.
- Income level and asset base of the family.
- Money saved for the construction.
- Existing liabilities and expenditure pattern of the family including diseases, bad habits etc.



Late Monsignor Augustine Kandathil (Father Gus), left, and Father Ryan at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario, Canada (1999)

Thank You!

Rev Fr. Ryan for your pioneering and dedicated service of over thirty years as President of Save A Family Plan Canada. We wish you many more fruitful years of service in the Lord's vineyard. Our thoughts and prayers will follow you all the way.

3. Activity Plan

A detailed activity plan was evolved from the workshop. The activities were focusing on sequential learning and action process with the participation of the beneficiaries throughout the project cycle. Moreover, due importance was given to the identification of specific roles for the facilitators as part of the implementation of the activities.

4. Preparation of Documentation Framework

As this action research is centered on a learning process both by the beneficiaries and the facilitating agencies, documentation of the experience and findings were given prime importance. Hence frameworks to document the processes, dynamics of social support mobilization, gender integration and environment impact assessment were prepared with detailed checklist for observation and learning.

5. Literature review

Literature review was one of the joint efforts taken up by all the NGOs and SAFF. In order to make the literature review more systematic, guidelines were given to the facilitators which include housing status of the country and the state, historical analysis of housing problem (Kerala Context), different initiatives to address housing problem, Impact of different Government programs such as One lakh housing scheme, housing Board, Mythry – Indira Avaz Yojana scheme (IAY scheme), Rural Housing programs through PRIs, SC/ST housing etc, Housing Cooperatives, Private Housing Programs (including Bank schemes), DSSS Experiences (including voluntary sector), Future trend analysis of Housing situation in Kerala.

6. Planning workshop at the DSSS level

The DSSS level planning workshops were organized in all the DSSSs. The experience of Strengthening Partners of Sustainable Development (SPSD) and Sustainability through Participation Empowerment and Decentralization (SPED) planning processes, which were conducted during the previous years, has contributed positively to the creation of participatory environment for the above workshop.

Ms. Sheena S.S. & Ms. Nancy James MSW 3rd semester students from De Paul Institute of Science and Technology, Angamaly, and Ms. Neethu George P. & Ms. Renjini Radhakrishnan T. R., BSW 3rd semester students from Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, for their committed involvement in SAFF's activities during their internship.

Special Characteristics Identified by the partner NGOs

Many of the partner NGOs have identified some unique characteristics while undertaking the Action Research processes. Following are some of the same.

- Focusing on the comparative study of different technologies adopted by the partner families. In one of the NGOs, all the selected families have adopted different technological options.
- Conducting study on the dynamics of community support mobilized for the house construction. In one of the NGOs, the community is contributing more than 60% of the cost as labor, money and material through voluntary efforts
- Another interesting area of the study is the leadership support given by women in house construction
- Still another is an example of constructing the house without effecting any damage to the existing biodiversity in the site where mangroves are preserved and protected
- One NGO is training and developing women masons along with the implementation of this project

Key learnings & findings

- The initial introductory process of PAR has created a base for improved participation of the target families and the Sanghams.
- The Sangham leaders have realized that they have a creative role in the efforts to build houses for the poor. The major reason for such awareness is built on the analysis of the limitations of the poor to build houses.
- The importance of social capital base has been very well explored at the time of problem analysis and plan formulation exercises.
- The project implementation process has become more flexible and has developed a built-in mechanism of transparency. The flexibility of the project mostly relies on the capacity of facilitation. It was observed that the NGOs, which is trying to build their capacity on facilitation, bends towards more flexibility and participation.

Our New NGO Partners

1. Jabalpur Diocesan Social service Society, Sneh Sadan Campus, 599-South Civil Lines, Jabalpur PIN-482001, Madhya Pradesh, India
2. Balasore Diocesan Social Service Society, Bishop's House, Balasore – 756 001, Orissa, India.
3. Indore Diocese Social Service Society, Bishop's House, 10, Old Sehore Road, P.B. No.168, Indore, M P - 452 001.
4. Jhabua Diocesan Social Service Society (JDSSS), Jeevan Jyothi Hospital Compound, Meghnagar, Jhabua Dt., Madhya Pradesh, India - 457 779.
5. Raipur Diocesan Social Welfare Society, Seva Sadan, Tatibandh- 492 092, Raipur, Chattisgarh, India

OFFICIAL VISITS

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has conducted an external audit in Save A Family Plan in connection with CIDA funded 'Sustainability through Participation, Empowerment and Decentralization' (SPED) - 2003-06 project. Mr. Stuart visited Save A Family Plan India Office on 31st October to 4th November 2005 to conduct the audit.

Meetings and Trainings

1. Family Development Programme – National Meet of Coordinators

Save A Family Plan conducted a two-day orientation training for DSSS coordinators of Family Development Programme on 5th and 6th October 2005 at National Office, Aiswaryagram, Kanjoor. Forty-four coordinators from different DSSSs actively participated in the programme. Mr. Koshy Mathew, Bangalore, gave a one-day input on 'Documentation & Report Writing'. Ms. Karyn Craven, SAFF, Canada, shared her experience regarding the relationship between beneficiary and benefactor in Canada. There were general & group discussions on guidelines, computer software, records keeping etc. The discussions were led by Fr. Augustine Bharanikulangara, Joy K V, Usha Johnson and Jose Varekulam. Jaison James welcomed the participants and Molly Furtado, Mysore DSSS, thanked the participants.

2. CIDA/SPED Programme – Monthly Review Meeting:

Participants: CIDA/SPED Coordinators Date: November 16-17, 2005

Venue: Aiswaryagram, Parappuram P.O., Ernakulam

Theme: Gender Impact Assessment Frame Work

3. Three-day workshop on 'GENDER and gender impact assessment'

Participants: New Coordinators of CIDA/SPED programme

Date: December 14 – 16, 2005

Venue: Aiswaryagram, Parappuram P.O., Ernakulam

4. CIDA/SPED Programme – Monthly Review Meeting:

Participants: CIDA/SPED Coordinators Date: December 13th 2005

Venue: Aiswaryagram, Parappuram P.O., Ernakulam

Theme: Gender Impact Assessment

FORTH-COMING PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS

Annual General Meeting of Partners Date: 22nd February 2005

"Gender Evaluation of Save A Family Plan" By Neena Sachdeva on behalf of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Date: January 7-18, 2006

Welcome

Ms. Lois Cote became the new President of Save A Family Plan Canada. She was one of the Board Member of SAFFP Canada. She has visited India several times and is very familiar with SAFFP programme and its partnership in India.



PAR HOUSING PROGRAMME List of Partners

Sl.No.	Name of Partner	Place
1.	Alleppey Diocesan Charitable & Social Welfare Society	Alleppey
2.	Bangalore Multipurpose Social Service Society	Bangalore
3.	Bodhana, Thiruvalla Social Service Society	Thiruvalla
4.	Calicut Diocesan Social Service Society	Calicut
5.	Center For Overall Development, Thamarassery	Thamarassery
6.	Chenganachery Social Service Society	Chenganachery
7.	Chikamangalor Multipurpose Social Service Society, Hassan	Hassan Chikamangalor
8.	Cochin Social Service Society	Cochin
9.	Coimbatore Multipurpose Social Service Society	Coimbatore
10.	Dindigul Multipurpose Social Service Society	Dindigul
11.	Ernakulam Social Service Society (ESSS)	Varapoly
12.	KAIROS, Kannur	Kannur
13.	Kanyakumari Social service Society	Thuckalaye
14.	Kothamangalam Social Service Society	Kothamangalam
15.	Kottapuram Integrated Development Society (KIDS)	Kottappuram
16.	Kottar Social service Society (KSSS)	Kottar
17.	Kottayam Social Service Society	Kottayam
18.	Madras Social service Society (MSSS)	Madras
19.	Malankara Social Service Society (MSSS)	Trivandrum Arch
20.	Marthandom Integrated Development Society	Marthandom
21.	Neyyattinkara Integral Development Society	Neyyattinkara
22.	Organization for the Development of People	Mysore
23.	Pala Social Welfare Center, Pala	Pala
24.	Peermade Development Society, Peermade	Kanjirapally
25.	People Service Society, Palakkad	Palakkad
26.	Punalur Social Service Society	Punaloor
27.	Quilon Social Service Society (QSSS)	Quilon
28.	Shimoga Multipurpose Social service Society	Shimoga
29.	Shreyas Social Service Centre, Sultan Bathery	Bathery
30.	Social Action Forum, Irinjalakuda	Irinjalakuda
31.	Tellicherry Social Service Society	Tellicherry
32.	The Dakshina Kannada Rural Development Society	Belthangady
33.	Trivandrum Social Service Society (TSSS)	Latin Trivandrum
34.	Tuticorin Multipurpose Social Service Society (TMSSS)	Tuticorin
35.	Udhagamandalam Social Service Society	Ootty
36.	Vijayapuram Social Service Society, Kottayam	Vijayapuram
37.	Wayanadu Social Service Society (WSSS)	Mananthavady
38.	Welfare Services Ernakulam (WSE)	Ernakulam

Editorial Team:

Fr. Augustine Bharanikulangara, Thomas M C
Jaison James and Jose Varekulam

Director's Desk

Participatory Action Research in Housing for the Poor

The Participatory Action Research (PAR) process of SAFFP in housing for the poor initiated in the Diocesan Social Service Societies (DSSSSs) are receiving positive learning inputs from the target families and sanghams. Participatory Action Research is a process that transcends the NGOs from projects to the root causes of problems based on a concurrent, historical and spatial contextual analysis and further towards empowerment of the poor.

There are two objectives for this new initiative:

1. To develop a process and approach to address the problem of housing.
2. To build capacity of the DSSSSs and the facilitators involved in the Action Research process to carry on the research approach in addressing problems related to poverty, marginalization and vulnerability.

Following are the key concerns that have motivated us to adopt this approach.

1. As a result of many years of project interventions, SAFFP, along with its partners, realized that it was important to draw systematic learning from the project interventions and streamline the same towards empowerment of the poor and the policy formulation at the state level.
2. The consultative planning processes undertaken jointly by SAFFP and the DSSSS recognized that the issues, which are addressed by DSSSSs and the Sanghams are so complex and diverse that the responses and approaches to the same should be location specific, participatory and unique.
3. It was realized that DSSSSs alone cannot address the issue of poverty and marginalization. They have to explore possibilities of meaningful collaborations with Government (including Panchayath Raj Institutions), linkages with other agencies and network with other NGOs.

Systematic and scientific understanding and learning of the problems have been given more importance in this approach. Most of the DSSSS have expressed positive attitude to the new approach and proposed a shift in their roles as facilitators of development process. I congratulate all the Directors and staff members of Diocesan Social Service Societies especially the SPED coordinators for their hard work and commitment to SAFFP and its approaches.

Fr. Augustine Bharanikulangara

Director

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of
the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
to this Newsletter. www.acdi-cida.gc.ca