POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH VAZHNDHU KAATTUVOM SCHEME IN THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT – A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Vazhndhu Kaattuvom scheme is to support Government of Tamil Nadu's strategy of reducing rural poverty with special focus on the poorest of the poor through capacity building and livelihood intervention using the Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach. The schemes covers 70 blocks across 15 districts and proposes to engage resource institution to impart training on governance and book keeping for Economic Activity Federations. Impart training to 150 community members of the economic activity federations in the above area. The schemes responsibility of president village panchayat, head of SHG, and poverty reduction committee. Organizing 'left out' poor including the ultra poor, women and other vulnerable groups into SHGs and including them in the benefits and decision making stream and providing special assistance for disadvantaged sections, such as the poor and disabled. Supporting institutional development of SHGs through capacity building and development of strong federations that are institutionally and financially sustainable. The focus will shift from SHGs to group formation for undertaking through provision of skill support, marketing, technology transfer and promotion of higher investment per family.

KEYWORDS: Poverty- Eradication – self employment schemes- standard of Living conditions- Social Disorder.
INTRODUCTION

Vazhndhu Kaattuvom scheme is to support Government of Tamil Nadu's strategy of reducing rural poverty with special focus on the poorest of the poor through capacity building and livelihood intervention using the Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach. The schemes covers 70 blocks across 15 districts and proposes to engage resource institution to impart training on governance and book keeping for Economic Activity Federations. Impart training to 150 community members of the economic activity federations in the above area. The schemes responsibility of president village panchayat, head of SHG, and poverty reduction committee.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Organizing 'left out' poor including the ultra poor, women and other vulnerable groups into SHGs and including them in the benefits and decision making stream and providing special assistance for disadvantaged sections, such as the poor and disabled. Supporting institutional development of SHGs through capacity building and development of strong federations that are institutionally and financially sustainable. The focus will shift from SHGs to group formation for undertaking through provision of skill support, marketing, technology transfer and promotion of higher investment per family.

STATE LEVEL

Specialist, Disability, Vulnerability and poor people livelihood in tamilnadu. Developing, co-ordinating and monitoring implementation of strategy for the disabled and most vulnerable handicapped people in rural people in tamil nadu. State and District Level Resource Organizations and resource persons seminars works and conferencing. The training of the rural youth and women candidate aided for rural people district level.

DISTRICT LEVEL

Build capacity and extend handholding support to special group facilitator. Build network with government departments, resource organizations and service providers to support the disability and vulnerability plans.

CLUSTER LEVEL

This is stages is ten or fifteen village panchayat federation. The human resources and other capacity building measures to the special groups in designing guidance for livelihood and strategic support to strengthen DPGs and federation. Be responsible for implementation of special programs for disabled and most vulnerable at the village level such as identifying disabled and vulnerable persons, organizing them into self-help groups and federations, meeting their livelihood and other special rehabilitation needs, organizing training for the parents and SHG leaders.
VILLAGE LEVEL

Assist VPRC (Village Poverty Reduction Committee) including programs for disabled and most vulnerable in VPRC plan. Assist special facilitator to organize the persons with disabilities and vulnerability into self-help groups. Assist the special groups in book keeping and record maintenance.

OBJECTIVE

- To analyses the economic condition of Self-Helf Group members and their family members in the study area.

- To study the functions, saving, loan, expenditure and investment pattern of self-help groups members.

MAHALIR THITTAM

Mahalir Thittam is being implemented in Vazhndhu Kaattuvom schemes blocks through Vazhndhu Kaattuvom scheme staff and Village Poverty Reduction Committees helped in converging the efforts of Mahalir Thittam and Vazhndhu Kaattuvom and has avoided duplication of efforts. VPRCs have entered into an agreement with Mahalir Thittam for forming, training and monitoring SHGs and have been treated on par with NGOs for these activities.

THE SELECTED CATEGORIES

1. Very poor and poor, poor and poor households.

2. Most vulnerable destitute, widows, deserted women, aged, orphans.

3. Marginalized communities including tribals.

4. Disabled.

DISTRICT PROFILE

Thoothukudi also known as Tuticorin is a city and a corporation - city is Thoothukudi district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is the tenth largest city in Tamil Nadu (after Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Salem, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur, Erode and Vellore). Tuticorin is the headquarters of Thoothukudi District.

The Government of Tamil Nadu in their G.O.Ms. No.535/Revenue Department dated 23.4.2986 have ordered the formations of a new district viz., Thoothukudi district, which is named often the freedom fighter Shri. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, who was born in the district. Thoothukudi District was inaugurated on 19.10.1986 by the 20th District with effect from 20.10.1986 with at Thoothukudi.
HISTORY

Tuticorin is traditionally known for its pearl fishery and shipbuilding. Thoothukudi became the centre of the Indian independence movement in the early 20th century, with such leaders as the Maveeran Sundaralinga Kudmfbanar, Tyagi Vadivu, Thalapathy, Venni Kalady, Poet Subramanya Bharathy, Veerapandiya Kattabomman and V.O.Chidambaram Pillai. In 1906, the freedom lighter V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, with the help of Bal Gangadhar, Tilak, Launched the first swadeshi ship S.S. Gaelia from this port town in British India.

POPULATION IN THOOTHKUDI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Variation</th>
<th>% of Variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1565143</td>
<td>109823-</td>
<td>7-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Environmental profile

ORIGIN OF THE NAME

There are three theories as to the origin of the name Thoorthu (Dig) and Kudi (Drink) - The town had no rivers and the only source of drinking water was from wells.

"Thootta" means land "reclaimed" from sea while "Kudi" also stands for 'Settlement' or colony. Hence "Thoortha kudi" or Thoothukudi could means a settlement built on land reclaimed from Sea. Finally, the word Tuticorin name was used by Dutch people who were here. Today the city is called Tuticorin in English and Thoothukudi in Tamil.

THOOTHKUDI DISTRICT ONGOING THE SCHEMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Blocks</th>
<th>Panchayats</th>
<th>No. of Habitation</th>
<th>No of families (total)</th>
<th>Total population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thoothukudi</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>122354</td>
<td>465205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DRDA, Thoothukudi

VAZHNDHU KAATTUVOM SCHEMES STRATEGY

- Formation and Strengthening of Village Institutions.
- Village Fund.
- VPRCF Fund.
- Capacity Building Fund. Special Fund to assist the Disabled and most Vulnerable Livelihood Fund.
• Village Panchayat Incentive Fund.
• Para-professional Development and Federation Development and Strengthening.

FINANCING SOURCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Source of Schemes</th>
<th>US$ Million</th>
<th>Rs. Million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Government of Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>27.00</td>
<td>1218.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>World Bank (IDA)</td>
<td>120.00</td>
<td>5412.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Village Communities</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>541.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>159.00(J)</td>
<td>7171.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www. Vazhndlu Kaattuvom.in

OVERALL SCHEMES CYCLE

The key steps and sequencing of activities to be performed in implementation of the scheme are segregated into the following phases.

• Start up Phase (State level)
• Promotional Phase (District and Cluster level)
• Initiation Phase (Village level)
• Institution Development Phase (Village level)
• Livelihoods Implementation Phase (Village level) and
• Consolidation Phase (Village level)

The procurement arrangements of the schemes are aimed at satisfactory implementation, speedy transfer of resources by way of disbursement, and achieving economy and efficiency in the schemes.

THE SCHEMES

A majority of these communities depend on collection of agricultural produce seasonally as their only source of livelihood. Therefore, one of the important tasks of the resource team involved in the schemes should be to closely work with the low level communities in the protection, conservation, regeneration and sustainable development of the natural resources. This will mutually benefit developing natural resources-based livelihood enterprises and options.
STRATEGY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE POOR

In rural areas majority of the disabled people are represented in the poor and poorest families. They are largely discriminated and excluded by the society even by their own families and are caught in a vicious cycle of poverty and disability, each being both a cause and a consequence of the schemes. Vazhndhu Kaatuvom schemes recognizes their rights and gives special attention to their development through appropriate development measures.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

The overall schemes objectives for disabled persons and other Vulnerable Poor is to empower and mainstream the disabled poor and other most vulnerable by proactively including them during social mobilization and institution building of the schemes thereby improving livelihood opportunities, quality of life and securing their dignity.

WHO ARE DISABLED PERSONS

The Schemes adapt the definition of Persons with disability Act 1995 and National Trust Act of 1999 that those who are affected by any of the following disabilities, to the extent of 40% or more, as certified by a Recognized medical authority: Visual impairment including low-vision;

- Speech and Hearing Impaired
- Loco-motor disability includes Leprosy-cured and any form of cerebral palsy
- Mental retardation Mental illness
- Autism
- Multiple disabilities

PRIORITIZATION WITHIN THE DISABLED

The schemes recognize that all the disabled poor requiring special assistance. However, for extending the support and assistance, it will initially cover the disabled persons with 'multiple' impacts - severity or degree of disability, disabled women, children and those who are living under difficult circumstances namely no shelter or living single in the same order of priority.

THE SCHEMES ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING AS VULNERABLE

- Widowed women with meagre subsistence income and without social supports.
- Deserted wives and destitute with meagre subsistence income and without social supports.
- Orphaned children and those who are engaged in child labour.
- Senior citizens above 65, without any subsistence income or social supports.
- The poor nomadic communities such as gypsy, traditional palmist etc.
- Persons with HIV positive and AIDS of all ages who are economically poor, living without social support

PENALIZATION OF THE LIST OF BENEFICIARIES AT THE PANCHAYAT LEVEL

The identification of persons with disabilities and other vulnerabilities at the panchayat level will essentially be through the Participatory Identification of the Poor (PIP) process and list will be 139 approved in the Gram Sabha. However, considering that the identification of this category of the poor itself can be difficult and long-drawn, the schemes views that the process of identification of the disabled and the most vulnerable will not be finalized and looked at as an ongoing process.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Among the all, the children with disabilities are mostly deprived and exposed to vulnerability due to lack of basic needs such as nutrition, health care, rehabilitation services and better education. This deprives the children to experience childhood, access to quality education due to physical, attitudinal and other barriers that exist in the current education system. The schemes would explore opportunities to meet their special needs such as early stimulation, pre-schooling, education, medical, communication, physiotherapy, appropriate aids and appliances and other suitable rehabilitation measures.

SERVICE PROVIDING ORGANIZATIONS

Government and Charity hospitals for medical treatment to persons affected with chronic illness and other vulnerable people. Services of NGOs extending care and welfare measures aimed at vulnerability reduction and protection.

PARTICIPANT OF MEMBER IN GRAMA SABHA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Village Panchayat Population</th>
<th>Minimum Participant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>501 to 3000</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3001 to 10000</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Above 10000</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Catalogue in Government of Tamil Nadu
The schemes is mostly benefit scheme in rural poor and poverty reduction committee. Village Panchayat population number of percentage and 500 population in this committee in participated 500 population in 50 person participated in this function and 3000 population including the participation level of 10Q persons and 10000 total population in this area and participated person in 200 and above 10000 in this function 300 person in this function.

**ONGOING THE SCHEMES IN OTTAPIDARUM PANCHAYAT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Total Groups of SHG</th>
<th>Total Member</th>
<th>Grant now</th>
<th>Expenditure Rs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1650000</td>
<td>1544000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: VPRC Ottapidaram Panchayat report.

Ottapidaram panchayat nearest Thoothukudi 15 k.m of north the panchayat federation of SHG total groups 40 and total members of 800 VKP schemes in grant released now in Ottapidaram panchayat Rs.16,50,000/- the scheme beneficiary amount in Rs. 1544000/- village poverty reduction programme is very useful scheme youth to adult including gents and ladies of benefited in the scheme.

**TRAINING FOR YOUTH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Schemes</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Youth Driving License</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Welding Training</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Computer Training</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tailoring Training</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>75</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,85,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Panchayat Report

The scheme ongoing the area in Ottapidaram panchayat of the total beneficiaries is 75 members and men is 40 members and women members is 35 members total amount of rupees 185000/- the men is highest level of 18 members is youth, driving license and women members is highest is tailoring and computer training is the important of this scheme so this scheme is all panchayat is utililze of the schemes.
BENEFICIARIES AT THE PANCHAYAT LEVEL IN THE SCHEMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schemes</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Very poor</th>
<th>HIV and AIDS</th>
<th>Handicapped</th>
<th>Children with Disabilities</th>
<th>Widow</th>
<th>Orphaned</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cow Loan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Shop</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Wheel Cycle</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Box</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailoring Machine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHG, women</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loan</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>9,66,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Panchayat Report

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF SHG MEMBERS IN OTTAPIDARAM PANCHAYAT

The Vazhndhu Kaatuvom Scheme is benefited in Ottapidaram SHG members and standard of living income and Expenditure saving and investment so growth of poor to other step of growth in standard of living. The youth both men and women in growth of in this system and awareness of youth members.

CONCLUSION

The scheme very benefited scheme so the infrastructure development of Building and Computer facilities furniture meeting hall the panchayat level. Self employment of rural women
in supermarket is managed for the SHG members and commercial complex of panchayat level is in this area. This scheme is all rural panchayat is utlize of the schemes.

REFERENCES


4. Roy (2000), Charanic poverty in India

5. Catalogue in Government of Tamil Nadu

6. www.vazhndhuKaattuvom.co.in