



Socio-Economic and Educational Development Society (SEEDS)
Tamilnadu, India

Project Concept Note

Educate a Girl Child; Empower a Family

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Back Ground of the Project:

The Problem Analysis

Tamil Nadu has a total Scheduled Tribe (ST) Population of 0.65 million which constitute about 1.04 % of the total population of the state. The Tribal Groups are found as concentrated population in the Hills. Majority of them are economically deprived, socially marginalized and lack resources. Their access to Health, Education, Employment and other income generation opportunities are much limited. The literacy percentage of the scheduled tribes is 27.89 percent as against 63.72 percent of the general population. Due to its relatively low population in Tamil Nadu, the tribal communities apart from the constitutional protection do not have any specific security basket. Though they have their own areas (mainly hills in Tamil Nadu) without a specific legal guarantee in the state they are in a vulnerable situation. Their habitations remain scattered and do not get visibility – due to its remote locations, difficult accessibility and low numbers. Land tenure laws for tribal communities state clearly that no non-tribal can purchase land from a tribal. Yet we see that due to the constrained availability of natural resources and stressed subsistence economy and resources the tribal families often lease out their lands for a pittance, thereby ushering in non-Tribals close to their settlement who start living and farming for good. It is also seen that due to the above circumstances the tribal landowners tend become wage labourers in their own land.

About the Malayali Tribals in Kolli Hills :

Kolli Hills is a small mountain range of Eastern Ghats and is situated in Namakkal District, Tamilnadu, India. Malayali Tribal are one among the tribes of Tamilnadu and are large found in Kolli Hills , Namakkal District of Tamilnadu, India. They constitute about 95% of the total population of these sparsely populated hills. There are 14 village Panchayaths and 275 hamlets. The population predominantly consists of scheduled tribes called



Hindu Malayali whose spoken language is only Tamil. The overall literacy rate is 25.6 percent among male and 16.4 percent among the female. The Kolli hills is the largest block in Nammakkal district but with less population of size 35423 with area of 371.3 sq.kms. Important farm products of the mountain ranges include coffee, tea, jackfruit, pineapple, black pepper and other spices. Rice and other minor millets form the staple food of the tribal



people who inhabit these mountains.

The inhabitants of the kollihills are malayali tribal whose occupation are agri coolis at native station for six months and migrated to other states (Karnataka for paddy cutting and other agri coolis for kerala) for the same kind of work. Seventy five percent families are separated due to the migration and children are at the custody of single parent.

SEEDS as a development organization undertook Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in 2 Panchayaths covering 10 villages and the study revealed the following among the Malayali Tribal communities

- High Migration among women to nearby States like Kerala and Karnataka round the year for meager coolie works in estates and farm
- Low status of women in the community
- Lack of alternate livelihood opportunity
- Lack of strong community organizations like SHGs and women's participation in community and Political structures
- Lack of saving habits and high dept with landlords and money lenders
- High Mal nutritional among women, adolescent girls and children
- Poor Health and Hygiene
- Prevalence of early girl childhood marriages in Large
- Low land holdings and are mostly rain-fed agricultural dependents

- High drop-outs among school children, especially adolescent girls forced into child labours and also early childhood marriages
- Incidence of maternal and infant mortality and at higher rates when compared to district and state averages.
- Prevalence of HIV/AIDS among migrant population and young girls at risks of infection
- Domestic violence and social atrocities faced by women
- Young girls victimized of sexual harassment in the society

At this juncture, on pilot phase through the project proposed the organization tends to address 100 vulnerable girl children identified in 10 villages, both drop out and in threat of getting dropped out for better education, health, livelihood and social status. This is proposed to be achieved by the following Interventions

Proposed Interventions:

1) Identification of Vulnerable Girls Children:



100 vulnerable girls, both drop outs and in threat of drop outs of adolescent ages 11-18 have been identified. They are mostly orphaned, children of single parents or deserted families, children of migrated families, children of poor economical conditions, at risk of school drop outness, children forced for marriages and girls married at young ages with poor educational and social strata.

2) Support for Education to school going children:

This is a key intervention of the project and will be achieved as follows

- ❖ Support for 75 girl Children to subscription to quality reading materials in forms of books, magazines, comics , story tellers etc in local vernacular to improve the reading habits and also to attract them towards learning
- ❖ Support for 75 girl children for annual educational/schooling materials inclusive of books, note books, stationeries, bags, lunch kits, water bottles etc to improve and enhance education in formal schooling
- ❖ Support for 75 girl children for hygiene kits and clothing materials including school uniforms, color dresses, blankets, rain coats, sanitary napkins, Shoes/Chapels,

soaps, shampoos, hair oil, nail cutter, bucket & mugs etc to improve health, hygiene and education

- ❖ Support for Establishment of Playing centers/recreational centers at school and village level through provision/establishment of sports and games materials aimed to create recreation , health improvement and physiological supports
- ❖ Establishment of 5 village libraries to improving the reading habits and also the knowledge collectively among girl children and the entire community in large
- ❖ Support for scholarship/sponsorship to 25 girl children to pursue higher education both technical/academic in regular colleges through provision of annual scholarships to meet out fees, educational materials, special coaching, hostel & mess fees, purchase of dresses/uniforms, travel and other expenses relevant to education

3) Livelihood Support to the Family:

The women parent of the identified girl children who are pondering way for livelihood improvement will be made a key integral part of the project for self sustenance and continued support to the girl children education. These women will be supported as follow

a. Entrepreneurial Training Training and Life Skills :

100 women parent of the girl children will be provided with various life skills including health, hygiene, gender awareness, maternal & child health knowledge enhancement added with entrepreneurial trainings as appropriate to local socio-culture including eco-enterprises making, honey bee keeping, Food Processing especially in fruits & traditional minor and major millet foods, vending business, livestock rearing etc. The training will be provided locally by trained and high resource personals of the organization and also from associated departments locally.



b.Support for Start up of Enterprises:



The trained women will be organized into small Self Help groups and will be provided with an seed revolving loans to start their enterprises at home level to enhance their livelihood and income. The seed revolving loans will be utilized to

purchase of tools & equipments, raw materials etc to run the enterprises. The organization will help the entrepreneurs maintain standards & quality of products and also help them market their products collectively and fetch good income.

4) Advocacy & Lobbying:

The organization will also organize awareness programs and workshops to create awareness and sensitization among the local community and other role players including government and non government departments, organizations and institution on the importance of girl children's education and eradication of early girl children marriages. The organization will also work to improve other forms of local support that could benefit the project girl children and the community.

Project Budget:

The total project budget requested from donor to support 100 girls is **USD 12,500/-**

About the Organization :

Name of the Organization	Socio- Economic and Educational Development Society (SEEDS)
Contact Person	A.Ramachandran Director
Contact Email	seedsmadurai@gmail.com, director@seedsgreen.org
Organization Website	www.seedsgreen.org
Registration Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Registered under Tamil Nadu Societies registration act of 1975 and section 27A;Registration Number: 146/ 1994 & Registered Date: 02 May, 1994 ✓ Registered Under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. 1976. Registration. No. 075940438 dated 28.03.2002 ✓ Registered under Income Tax Act 12AA & PAN Number: AACAS0418F
Organization Vision & Mission	<p><u>Vision:</u> SEEDS envisions a society where people live in harmony and peace with fellow human beings and the nature.</p> <p><u>Mission:</u> To Enable grass root communities to achieve holistic development through participatory & sustainable development interventions.</p>

Brief History	<p>Socio- Economic and Educational Development Society, (SEEDS) is a voluntary, non-profit NGO based at Madurai, Southern Tamil Nadu, India. It was founded by Mr. A. Ramachandran, a renowned Social activist and development agent with a group of like minded social workers with different professional background in the year 1994. SEEDS foster empowerment of vulnerable communities through sustainable development pathways and strongly believe that empowering downtrodden segment of the society in Socio-economic and environmental management is vital for sustainable development in rural India. This organization currently operates in Madurai and Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu, India. The organizations principle is five core values of integrated development as “Nature, Social, Economic, Physical and Human”</p>
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A.Ramachandran
Director