

A GRANT REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE OF HIV/AIDS INFECTED AND AFFECTED 100 CHILDREN OF ANBAGAM CHILDREN'S VILLAGE MAITRI SOCIETY, KODUVILARPATTY, THENI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU, INDIA.

Introduction:

The needs of children who lose their parents to AIDS are similar to the needs of children who have lost their parents for other reasons. The fact is that the existence of orphans in different societies is not new. What is new is the increasing scale of the problem. **MAITRI** met the needs of these children to an extent but the needs grow as the children grows...**MAITRI** identified some basic needs of Anbagam Children's village and hence this appeal.

Brief Description of the Organization:

MAITRI (A Sanskrit word means friendship) is a registered Voluntary Organisation working for the welfare of the rural people particularly women and children irrespective of caste, colour, and creed since 1992. The main motto of the organisation is to provide "**SUPPORT SERVICE TO SUPPRESSED SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**" The main focus is on Community Health, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Programs, Care & Support Programs, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Education, Women and Child Development, and Economic Development programs. **MAITRI** is working in 45 villages of Theni Block of Theni District with a target population of 1, 05,000. **MAITRI** is able to bring tangible changes in the areas where **MAITRI** is working particularly in the field of HIV/AIDS. We have our regular ongoing programs on HIV awareness and Care & Support programs funded by agencies. During our intervention with the infected families, we gave special focus to the children both infected by HIV and affected by HIV/AIDS.

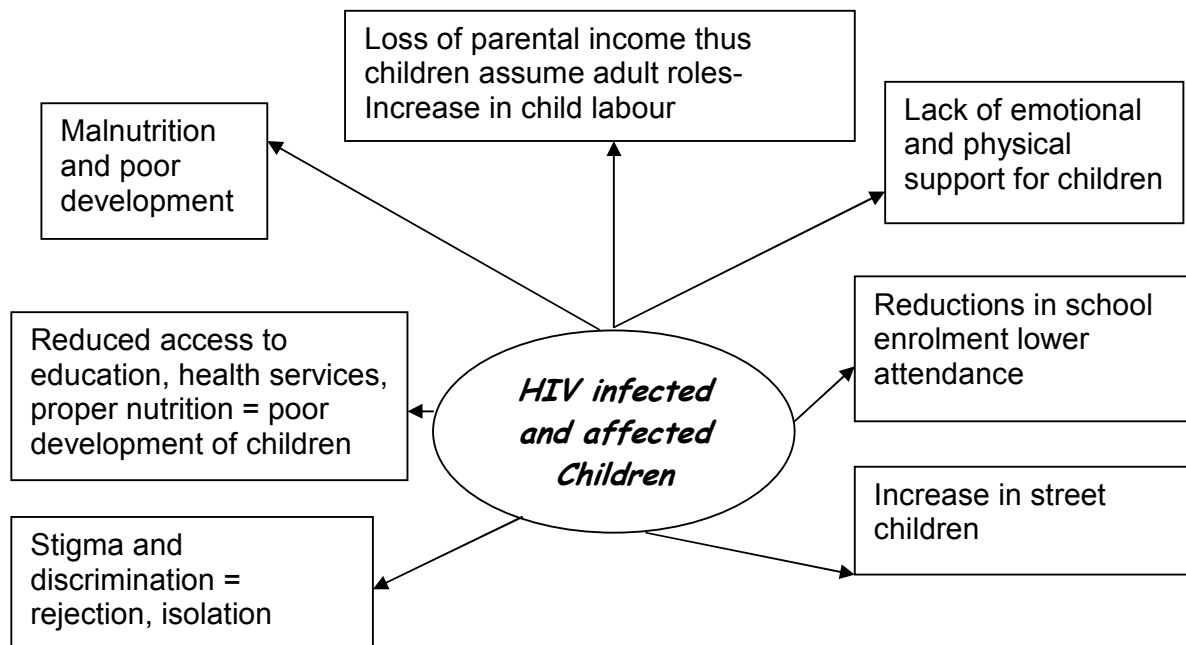
Problems of Children:

The needs of children affected by AIDS epidemic do not begin with death of the parents, but with the knowledge that someone in their family is infected with HIV. In the event of parent's death, they may or may not have both parents available, and one or both parents may be infected with HIV, diagnosed with AIDS, or deceased, usually the children face double wrath of coping with the situation. This scenario is commonly seen in our area.

Children who lose a parent must cope not only with grief over their loss, but possibly with significant disruptions to their home and family life, such as placement in foster care or the home of another relative. Additionally, families are experiencing multiple losses. This situation is unique in its ability to strike

multiple members of the immediate family as well as the larger community, thus severely compromising traditional social support systems.

Many children who lost their parents tempted or the situation forces them to discontinue their education and go as labour. These children also will have to face stigma, rejection, and prejudice. This also prevents them in accessing the social and psychological support systems. Considering the complex social, medical and cultural, individual and family factors surrounding, there is definitely a need to examine an alternative for this.



The needs of children who lose their parents and the needs can be described as:

- Love to help them cope with their loss.
- Physical needs, including the need for nutritious food, shelter, health care and education.
- Freedom from stigmatization.
- Freedom from exploitation - using an orphaned child as an unpaid domestic worker

Our response to these Problems and Needs:

In order to overcome these problems, **MAITRI** launched two different programs to support these children for their well being. We have conducted a survey and identified 100 deserving children and started working with them through the following two programs.

Children's Assistance Program:

The aim of this program is to provide assistance to the children who have been infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to meet their social needs thus to reduce the infected parent's burden. Accordingly **MAITRI** was providing monthly assistance to 100 children who are above 10 years and semi orphans in and around Theni Block. Most of these children were from very poor family background particularly from SC community. In addition to the regular assistance, we provided 2 sets of uniforms, Books and notebooks and paid their school fees. Every month we paid Rs.250/- (\$6) per child to meet out their needs. Due to the financial crises we have stopped the program in between.

Anbagam Children's Village:

While we are working with such Children we have realized the importance of providing a systematic foster care and support program to these Children, particularly to the school going Children. We have developed a campus exclusively for these children. We have identified and admitted 100 children below 15 years (both boys and girls). We have constructed 10 independent houses and each house was provided to a mother with 10 children. The housemothers are all widows affected by HIV. Good food, education and other medical facilities are being provided to these children. Children are studying in the nearby schools.

Impact of the Program:

This Children's Assistance program created a sort of self-confidence among the children to face the challenged life. The assistance helped these families to a greater extent. It helped the destitute mothers to provide a better food to the children and neat clothes to the children.

Every month the children were coming to **MAITRI** to collect their assistance with the elders. During that time we provided counselling and necessary medical assistance to the needy children. Most of the assisted children are attending school regularly. It reduced the school dropouts which led to the reduction in the Child labour sector. The children are continuing access to their own community is well protected for their own survival and well being.

This Foster Care program reflected the values of the person that is, what matters to them and, what they care about. The program met the full range of children's psychological, social, materials legal and spiritual needs. Children's inheritance and other legal rights are protected. This foster care program paid a way to these women and children to make new friends and good friends, because friendship can also help and HIV positive person to live positively. This program helped the beneficiaries to make worries seem smaller and can be a great source of moral support. This program provides a wide range of opportunity for the children for full participation and equalization of opportunity.

Need of the Hour:

All our programs towards these children are supported by good-hearted UK based Funding agency. Initially they supported us for one year for our infrastructure and maintenance of children. As continuation of the program they supported us for another 3 subsequent years. In this juncture, we cannot afford to loose the well beings of the children but for money. The question remains the sustainability of the program. As we are not in a position to feed the present children, we have restricted the admission in spite of heavy demand for admission.

At present we have 100 children in the home with 6 mothers. Programs in such nature need uninterrupted support and encouragement. **MAITRI** is in need to raise funds to support these 100 children who are staying in Anbagam Children's Village. Our financial requirement to maintain the children's Village is as follows.

S. No	Program Description	Amount required
1.	Food expenses for 100 children @ Rs.675/-per Child per month for 12 months Rs.675 x 100 x 12 months	8,10,000.00
2.	Dress materials @ Rs.900/-per child per year for 100 children Rs.900 x 100	90,000.00
3.	Educational expenses @ Rs.1125/-per child per year for 100 children Rs.1125 x 100	1,12,500.00
4.	Medical expenses @ Rs.1350/-per child per year for 100 children Rs. 1350 x 100	1,35,000.00
5.	Salary for one Home Manager @ Rs.8000/-per month for 12 months Rs.8000 x 12 months	96,000.00
6.	Salary to mothers @ Rs.1500/-per month per mother for10 mothers for 12 months Rs.1500 x 10 x 12	1,80,000.00
7.	Salary to Support teachers @ Rs.2000/-per month for 2 teachers for 12 months Rs.2000 x 2 x 12	48,000.00
8	Salary to Driver @ Rs.4000/-per month for 12 months Rs.4000 x 12 months	48,000.00
9.	Salary to watchman @ Rs.3000/-per month for 2 persons for 12 months Rs.3000 x 2 x 12	72,000.00

10.	Water & Electricity, maintenance of existing buildings Tax etc @ Rs.10000/-per month for 12 months	1,20,000.00
11.	Transport expenses for 12 months @ Rs.10000per month for 12 months Rs.10000 x 12 months	1,20,000.00
12.	Administration(Printing & Stationary, Communication, Postage Travel etc) expenses @ Rs 5000/-per month for 12 months Rs.5000 x 12 months	60,000.00
	TOTAL REQUIREMENT FOR 1 YEAR	18,91,500.00

\$ 15 can meet the food charges of one child per month

\$ 20 can meet the cost of the dresses of one child per year

\$ 25 can meet the education of one child per year

\$ 30 can meet the Medical expenses of one child per year

\$ 35 can meet the food, Medical and education for one child per month.

CONCLUSION:

Let us step forward to defend the rights of the children, who have been denied the care they so desperately need. These children belong to us, as if they were our own. They must become the primary motivation for our struggles, and the most genuine of our endeavours. Hence this appeals to your good self.

***P.DEENADAYALAN
SECRETARY-MAITRI***