Poverty is more than the lack of income and resources to ensure a sustainable livelihood. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making. - UN

ANNUAL REPORT
2017-2018
GENESIS OF SHAPE

SHAPE is the abbreviation of SOCIETY FOR HARMONY – AID AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMY which was founded by Mr. Parthiban in 1987. His parents were uneducated coolie labourers. He lost his father at the age of eight. His mother Mrs. Kannamma Meaning >>lady of good vision << somehow managed to give him a good education to help the poor and needy. He gathered some like-minded people including women, and started SHAPE.

ACTIVITIES:

SHAPE have been implementing the following community Development projects towards the well-being of the marginalized communities especially for women and children:

- Free Education Centers for 600 school drop outs and regular school students.
- Sponsorship project for 50 children of HIV/AIDS victims and ultra-poor school children.
- Health, Hygiene, Nutrition, Environment, Legal Aid, child birth control and mother and child care education projects to 400 women.
- Provision of drinking water to drought prone areas.
- Formation of a number of Women Self Help Groups to educate on how they may access the benefits of Banks and Government.
- Formation and participation of NGO’s network.
- Training to Urban, Rural and Tribal health workers on various issues.
- Eradication of **child labourers and developing the unorganized sector of skilled workers including building construction workers.**
- Promotion of **organic farming.**
- Conservation and prevention of soil, water, forest and environmental programs.
- **Prevention and control of HIV/AIDS** programs in the Urban, Rural and Tribal areas of Tiruvannamalai District.
- **Helping the aged people.**

**ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR 2017-2018**

SHAPE has been implementing the plans and projects in line with its aims and objectives towards the well-being of the target people, women and children in particular during the year 2017 & 2018. Several people and agencies were approached for help by SHAPE over email, websites, phone calls and other means including traders, local clubs and Banks for help. All these approaches helped mainly to impart Education on AIDS, run the Women Center for Training, Development, Advocacy and Counselling (WCTDAC), to support adult women, school children and specifically to improve the Child Education and Health Development Project and to start SHAPE Care Home for Children.

**WOMAN POPULATION:**

Female population growth is increasingly higher than the male population in India. Women have so many personal, family and social problems. They needed to be empowered and supported in overcoming these issues. The family economy gradually started to grow through
Women Self Help Groups. The NGOs, Banks and the Government have come forward to assist these women when they approach for help, by introducing easy instalment loans and welfare schemes particularly to the uneducated, unorganized sector women, providing life security insurance policies, employment guarantees, skills and entrepreneurship training etc. Much of the Women do not have the education or sufficient awareness to avail the benefits and welfare schemes of the development agencies.

**PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN:**

Women’s literacy rate in our project areas is just thirty five percent. Women are forced to follow evil social and traditional customs, and superstitions, which badly affects their mind and body in several ways. Women rights and education are denied by the male community. Girl child labour is being encouraged, where they encounter mistreatment and are not given equal rights comparing to the boys – for example, being forced to work even during sickness. Women are dominated and exploited and they are not aware of their rights and privileges. Many have to face overwhelming problems with their family, community, and at the work place, including sexual harassment. They have to fight for their protection and dignity in many situations. They do not have rights to make her own decisions. The media are becoming increasingly exploitative of women which makes for additional problems and serves to destroy her self respect. Women’s role in politics is very low. Above all, women and female children are the most vulnerable population concerning the life threatening epidemic AIDS.
CHILDREN:

Child population covers thirty seven percent of the total population in India. Of this, ten percent stop attending school midway. Of the remaining twenty seven percent who complete their schooling, only five percent manage to secure a good position and lead comfortable lives. Others have to struggle to find a good job. Poverty, lack of awareness on the value of education are the main reasons for their pathetic situation. Also thousands of children are living with HIV/AIDS due to ignorant parents and through unsafe quacks treatment given for their ailments. In Tiruvannamalai district, the number of AIDS orphans has been increasing.

ACTIVITIES:

COMMUNITY HEALTH:

Human health is the foundation of a healthy community. Healthy community is the back bone of the nation’s economy. AIDS is a great challenge to be vigorously focused on. Although the Central and State Governments are making enormous efforts to eradicate poverty and to fight against the challenges of the new age diseases like AIDS, Cancer, T.B. and Diabetes etc..(with the collaboration of the U.N.O., WHO, developed countries, and local N.G.Os), it still can’t cope with the threatening effects of the above diseases. The Governments have been
implementing many projects and programs towards the nation’s development and health care. In addition to this, a policy for the eradication of terrorism and to secure the nation’s defence are their other responsibilities, and many billions of rupees are being spent to maintain the nation’s Harmony.

The Government is doing its best despite the many obstacles it has to face with a population of over one Billion people, and that it is comprised of twenty-eight states and seven union territories – all with different cultures, different religions, and more than eight hundred languages, plus a plethora of many political parties. Also much resource has to go towards maintaining its lengthy highways, road systems and complex rail and airway networks with the extremes in climatic conditions, all which provide additional challenges for this growing nations economy. Untouchability is still practiced all over the nation. It is the booming human population of India that provides the main concerns and potential crisis in terms with food, medical care, social, cultural and spiritual development. A number of health oriented programs on Cancer, diabetes, Tuberculosis, Polio, Filaria, communicable diseases, child birth control, mother and child care and referral services for care and support from the Government and private sectors for the needy poor are being carried out by SHAPE.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

The development of a country like India cannot prosper unless priority be given to health issues and securing sustainable economic development to the poor. A women welfare meeting was conducted throughout the year 2017 by SHAPE. Women belonging to different Women Self Help Groups participated and expressed their family and social problems providing immediate solutions for their poverty reduction. Most of the participants who attended this meeting were unorganized and uneducated from different communities. Different notable resource persons including Doctors, Entrepreneurs and Advocates attended the meetings to counsel women.

A variety of welfare programs were announced during these meetings. Firstly participants were advised to register their names with the Ministry of Labour under unorganized women category, to avail the benefits of the department. These benefits include: an immediate death allowance; an Accident relief fund occurring at the occupational premises; marriage allowance for the educated daughter’s (this scheme encourages the girl child’s education and eradicates child labour); special schemes for widows and women those who are separated from their husbands.
Mrs. Rita, the president of SHAPE, assured the above women folk that multiple training and development centres will be shortly opened to impart technical and life education to those who attend the center. Women who are living with HIV/AIDS also were present at the meetings and shared their problems in connection with their need for assistance for treatment and rehabilitation to manage their family’s financial situation. The chief functionary Mr. Parthiban committed to take necessary action according to their requirements.

**WOMEN CENTRES FOR TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT, ADVOCACY AND COUNSELLING:**

![INDUSTRIAL VISIT](image)

Two hundred impoverished women learned Fashion designing and basic computer training at SHAPE’s WCTDACs located in four different villages during the above period and turned independent and have been overcoming their family poverty. The expenses occurred towards the computers, sewing machines, trainers salaries and rentals were met out with the support of individual foreign friends and donor agency. Continuous efforts are taken up to raise funding to increase the number
of centers. During the training, on 06.06.2017 the women visited nearby industries to know more about the textile and computer world. Also as an environmental initiative amidst issues like global warming, the women of fashion designing are also taught to sew cotton bags. These bags are proposed to be supplied to vendors around the district to reduce the usage of plastics. The organic cotton materials needed for production of such bags were supplied by the organization. SHAPE has already supplied these bags to all of its beneficiary women and children. The WSHGs, in which the women are joined after training, also were advised to adopt such nature friendly methods. All the centres and Course certificates were awarded to the trainees who completed the course with which, many of whom have received free sewing machines from the Department of Social Welfare and availed Bank loans to start their own business. A new fashion designing center was started in January, 2017 in Karuvattanparai village with the assistance of F Âmes du Monde -France. Course certificate were awarded to 50 women in October 2017 by the District Social Welfare Officer. Twenty three new beneficiaries have joined in the next batch.
AIDS AND FAMILY PLANING EDUCATION TO WOMEN:

On 1st of December 2017, a beneficiary meeting was conducted. Dr. Thilagavathi M.B.B.S DCH, a well-wisher of SHAPE gave a talk on HIV/AIDS prevention and control and family planning to the gathering. She in her address said, nowadays, several building constructions are going on in Tiruvannamalai town. Workers who involved in this work are mostly unorganized sector women and are being exploited and abused by the masons and masonry assistants for sex. These men are one of the high risk groups for HIV/AIDS. Auto rickshaw drivers are another high risk group for AIDS. Women and their children are recommended to take potent drugs rather than going for unsafe intravenous injections for their ailments to prevent themselves from AIDS. The participants appreciated the information given and asked the coordinator Mrs. Rita to conduct more meetings of this kind in future. Two hundred and twenty eight women from
seventeen Women Self Help Groups participated in the above meeting. These women unanimously made a request to arrange for Bank loans to buy cows to create a cooperative Dairy project of their own. Their appeal was conveyed to various agencies and individuals.

**AIDS AWARENESS TO PUBLIC:**

In November 2016, a general survey was made with the help of trainees and area volunteers in many parts of Tiruvannamalai and surrounding areas. This team found that, slum dwellers are the most affected by HIV/AIDS comparing to other residential areas and are greatly facing family and social problems. Women and children are the most affected without finding proper remedy for their problem. On December 1st 2017, World AIDS day was observed and rallies were organized in twenty of the above slum areas to create public awareness on HIV/AIDS. Eighteen thousand people were benefited by this program.

**FAMILY ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF HIV/AIDS:**

Food, clothing, domestic animals, medical care and child education assistance offered to several families of HIV/AIDS victims. These families were supported with the contribution of foreign well wishers. Here is a
picture of an HIV/AIDS victim, Mrs. Gunavathi, one of many beneficiaries of our Income generation project. She is a widow with two children. SHAPE has helped her by starting a grocery shop business.

**CARE HOME FOR AIDS ORPHANS AND POOR CHILDREN:**

The loss of a parent to AIDS can have serious consequences to a child’s access to basic necessities such as shelters, food, clothing, health and education. Female headed households are dependent on fewer income earners. This lack of income puts extra pleasure on AIDS orphans, in many cases driving them to the streets to work, beg or seek food. Children who have lost one parent to AIDS are often at risk of losing the other parent as well, since HIV may have been transmitted between the couple through sex. Of whom many are being adversely become AIDS victims and their children turns AIDS orphans.

A **Care Home for Children** had been established by SHAPE to nourish AIDS orphans and poor children in the beginning of 2013 and was taking care of ten children by providing food, health care and education. This Care home for children was totally sponsored and supported by **Grand Orient De France-France**. The funding of this organization have been channelized by Mr. Dominique through **Enfant Soleil De L Homme, New Caledonia** since November 2012. SHAPE was told by the Government officials to create more infrastructure with minimum number
of 25 children to run the Orphanage. SHAPE is approaching various sources to continue this Care Home for Children Project.

Importance of child education was highlighted to thousands of Urban and Rural women through Women Self Help Group meetings and emphasized them to send their children to schools. Several “Education development” and “Health Development” camps were organized at schools with the cooperation of the parents and teachers and school authorities. Free Study materials, sanitary items, casual wear and Medical AID kits are supplied to encourage both the mothers and their children. Hundreds of different school children got benefited by these programs. Provided, education on HIV/AIDS prevention and control was imparted from Class X to college students. The above Children home status was explained to stakeholders and the same project has been converted as >>CHILD EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT<< This new project has been implemented in four remote villages. About two hundred students are getting direct benefits out of this new project since January 2015 in order to continue their education without dropping their schooling.
CONCLUSION:

Efforts have been taken to enhance the capacity of the poor and needy communities in line with the objectives of the organisation. All the above programs were organised by SHAPE with the cooperation and support of the Executive Committee members, volunteers, local and foreign well wishers, law and health professionals, social workers, teachers, government staffers, village heads and the leaders of W.S.H.Gs and common public etc,. SHAPE greets these people and seeks further support and cooperation towards its further endeavours. Our sincere thanks, regards and prayers to our well-wishers, friends and donors Grand Orient De France, Mr. Dominique, Madam. Genevieve, Madam. Ursula Luciano-USA, Mr. Bernard and Madam. Monika – Germany, Madam. Pamela Hackett – England, Madam. Gabriela Judas – Germany and Mr. Jean François and family – France who generously have made their contributions. May the Almighty God abundantly bless these kind people and their nations.

Yours thankfully,

The Advisory Board – SHAPE N.G.O.