

Emergency Relief

Our first experience of relief work was in December 2004 when the Tsunami hit the Tamil coast. Immediately we took action. Most of the people affected were fishermen's families; over the next few months they not only had to rebuild their boats but also their lives. In a small way we were able to help with clothing and some new fishing nets. Since the Tsunami we have had 3 severe floods where relief has been given in the way of rice, sleeping mats, clothing and other lost house essentials. In December 2011 Cyclone Thane hit our area. Again an immediate relief strategy was put in place. In November 2015 Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu had the worst floods for 100 years. PPDS reacted quickly with foods, fresh water and assistance with home needs.

International Recognition



Knowing that our work has changed lives is good. But to be internationally commended for this work is strong praise. Our president Dr. D. Daniel was presented with Mahatma Gandhi award from Bannari Education Trust. For the future the only reward Dr. D. Daniel wishes for is the smiling face of poor people and children.

Achievement

Our successes

We have increased the number of students in our first village 30 to 150 children and have two new villages where we are teaching a further 50 children. This means that in 13 years we have helped to educate approximately 450 students. We currently have many boy and girl students that are studying computer sciences, accountancy, engineering and mathematics, which offer them a route to good professions and away from poverty. Mr. Palnisamy (right), one of our first students, was 12 when he started at our school. Now 25 he is a professional machine mechanic, having completed further studies at college.



With education always in mind we have educated women in their rights and health issues. We have also educated village people and children on environmental and pollution issues.

We opened our tailoring center, with 150 certificates already issued.

Most of our other activities cannot be measured in terms of success but we do know that the lives we are touching are being changed for the better. In the villages where we operate we have educated the people to work in different ways: we can measure our success by the fact that they now ask for aid less often.

The Future

We will continue to assess the needs of the local communities and help to better their lives. In emergencies, flood, cyclones and medical needs we will take immediate action. We will increase all of our environmental projects and pollution awareness to protect the land and the lives of our communities.

*The needs are clear.
The ideas are easy.
The money always hard to find.*

தேவை தெளிவாக
கருத்துக்கள் எளிதாக
பணத்தை அடைவது எப்போதும்
கடினமாக இருக்கும்

If you can help with a donation or assist with fund raising in your country please email us so that we can provide you with the relevant details. If you would like to volunteer to help or to visit any of our projects or schools please contact us.



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Poor People Development Society



Helping those
who
want
to help
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History

The events listed here are shown in the first year that they took place. All have been successful and are now repeated regularly.

2003 Mangalam village first school one class, 30 children, age 4 to 10 years.
Organise first Medical Camp.

2004 School expands, 2 classes 60 children. Medical aid and 2nd Medical Camp
Tsunami immediate action with relief work.

2005 Tsunami work continues helping fishermen replace lost nets.
School moves to brick building, 4 classes 90 children.
1st Dental Camp promotes dental health, with fillings and extraction by mobile dentists.

2006 Alcohol awareness: we advise of risks that will arise, we take this to 5 villages.
Environment cleanliness, keep villages clean.
Personal cleanliness, always use soap; we make children wash hands and face before taking classes.

2007 Distribution of donated new and second hand clothes.
Grant to help handicapped with new business.
Women's rights and working widows advice.

2008 Children's Summer Camp - daily activities, sports, drawing, yoga, folk culture.

2009 Anti child-labour day, advising parents and children of the injustice of depriving a child of time for education.
Help for elderly and destitute after severe floods.

2010 Help to Adiyam people who are trying to break away from their nomadic life and settle in one place.

2011 School has 2 new class rooms and for the well-being we have a new boundary wall.
Cyclone Thana hits the Tamil coast affecting many of the villages we work with; we immediately assess their needs.

2012 We take action fulfilling the needs of cyclone affected people. We are badly affected and have to replace the roof on all 6 classrooms at one school.
The region has lost over 200,000 trees so we also explain to the villages and children the importance of replacing these and supply saplings for them to plant.

2013 We introduce 'Milk Cow Project'. A family with no income is given a cow: they become self sufficient through

sale of milk and also have their daily milk needs. In Mangalam we start goat farming with 4 goats; after selling some and having the benefit of the milk yield there are still 10 goats.

2014 The first 25 women complete the tailoring certificate.
We install Ro-Purify drinking water at Kodathur village. The local school asked for this service as the children were suffering from bad water illnesses.

2015 Create awareness of government Saving Scheme for villages. Awareness and importance of 'Clean India' campaign. The environmental pollution created by India and the rest of the world is changing the weather. This November we put on our biggest relief operation to help with those affected by the worst flooding for 100 years.

Education

Our first school was started after the realization of need. Many villages within 20 kms of Pondicherry had no education facilities and for many children there was no possibility to attend a regular day school. This has now changed with all children having to attend government school, but the thirst for education continues and village children still demand to learn.

Medical Camp

Within a month of opening the school we were on to our next project. Having visited many villages it was apparent that lots of people were not looking after themselves medically. With this in mind we assembled a mobile team of medical professionals to visit the needful villages. Treatment is given plus advice on further requirements or suggested hospital visit.

Medical camps are the most expensive and hardest service to provide, because we always need volunteer doctors, dentist, pediatrician and other health care professionals. While the government care for children through disease detection at school means their need is not so great, the camps are still very much needed for those both below and above school age.

Awareness Programme

This is our mobile information unit. Many older people are unable to read, so are not always aware of the help and support available to them. Our Awareness days cover HIV/Aids, alcohol related problems, dental health and environmental issues. We know that many government programmes are not correctly understood within the villages. This year we have added an Awareness Programme for the girls' postal saving scheme which enables them to save for college education and future security.



Women's and Children's Rights

We understand that in many villages there is a culture of disrespect towards both wife and mother by some men. Not respecting women is unacceptable. We have a comprehensive and sensitive approach to woman and child development and rights. We give professional advice on reproductive health, covering menstruation, STD, RTI, HIV/AIDS and how these are caused and prevented. Our female doctor explains to parents and girls how to prepare for puberty and to try to change the old ways of thinking and early marriage. Family planning, contraception and the problems of unwanted pregnancies. We encourage the development of social skills, decision making, self confidence and using these skills in life.

Tailoring Center

As a new education project we introduced a stitching class, initially with only five machines but with the desire and need for more. We are able to offer the class to rural women who, for financial reasons or lack of education, are unable to work so further training can be taken at the center. After completing 6 month course and reaching a good standard they are granted a certificate that helps to gain employment in embroidery or stitching industry.



Individual Help Requests

We receive many requests for individual support: although we find it difficult to say no, this is normally likely to be the answer. Each application is considered on its ability to make future life more beneficial. If we have outstandingly talented students that cannot afford further education we try to help with scholarships, grants or sponsors.



A good example is of one disabled polio victim who wished to start employment in the hand made rope factory. He needed daily transport to the place of work - we were able to help by providing the tricycle. His life is now changed by better employment, greater mobility and the freedom of independence.