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Urban Development Initiatives

Interventions,

Assessment

& Learnings

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DPG'S Urban Development Initiatives

(A Partnership programme with ActionAid, India)

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Urban Development Initiatives

Interventions, Assessment & Learnings

DPG Research Bureau



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Preface

Issues related to urban and the urban poor have begun to receive attention from all quarters Government, Multinational Corporations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have all started taking a keen interest not only in identifying the urban issues which affect human development but also in orienting policies, perspectives and programmes in order to meaningfully address the issues.

In 1994, Development Promotion Group entered into a partnership with ActionAid India, for a development programme centering around the urban poor in Chennai. Although originally this programme was envisaged as a long-term development programme, due to various reasons it was implemented on a year-to-year basis with an overall objective of empowering the urban poor. During the course of its implementation DPG also entered into collaboratory alliances with Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Chennai Corporation and Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority. After four years of work in the field, DPG decided to make an impact assessment of the programme. Hence a couple of consultants were asked to look into the interventions and their broad findings and recommendations are presented here.

We are grateful to Dr Amitava Mukherjee, Executive Director, ActionAid, India, Mr. Tom Thomas, the then Regional Manager, CRO and others in ActionAid who have helped DPG to intervene in and work for urban development. I thank Mrs. R. Rukmani from MIDS for visiting the field and making an assessment of the programme, Dr. Manimekalai for evaluating the project after assessing the primary and secondary data as well as holding a discussion with the staff and the Director of the project. I thank Mr. Joseph Walser, Dr. Julius Karunakaran and Dr. Brindavan Moses for compiling and editing the report and the UDI team for their involvement in the programme. I also take this opportunity to thank the various Government officials who have co-operated with DPG in this venture.

27.03.99
Chennai - 34

R. Bhakther Solomon

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1. INTRODUCTION, SUMMARY AND LEARNINGS

Introduction

Urban problems are ever increasing with the increase in urban population. This necessitates the intervention of the Government and Non-Government Organisations to work with the urban poor who are suffering from lack of shelter, unsafe environment, insecure employment, illiteracy and inadequacy of other basic amenities. There are very few agencies which are working for the urban poor. Many of the programmes available at the Government level either do not seem to work properly or do not reach the poor people. Given this background it is imperative that the Non-Governmental Organisations play an important role in improving the status of the urban poor. It is against this background that **Development Promotion Group (DPG)** has intervened in the slums of Chennai¹ with the aim to improve the quality of life of few poor families.

DPG's programme was initiated in partnership with ActionAid. The focus of the programme was on people's participation. The programme was initiated after a feasibility study. Appropriate criteria were used for identifying the slums and the urban poor for programme intervention. By mid '95, 10 target slums were selected based on the study made. The key problems of the slums were identified in the areas of Education, Environment and Sanitation, Health, Indebtedness, Lack of Socialization and Unity and Skills / Access to Business Development. In addition to the above, ownership of house site, threat of eviction, political interference, internal conflicts and alcoholism were identified as other issues affecting the slum dwellers.

Before the British, there was no Madras (now called Chennai). After Madras came under the imperial rule, half the area in the maps of the World was coloured in imperial pink. Truly it can be said that Madras was "The First City of the Empire" and it was from here that, all which is part of everyday life in India today developed. Indeed, the rest of India has long forgotten the contribution Madras has made over the years to the development of what might be called the "Modern India", the India since 1948. But, sadly, even its own citizens have lost sight of their city's contribution to that of India. And, so, Madras remains a forgotten footnote to history.

After initial discussions with the target group, programmes like education, organisation of women and youth into groups, savings & credit scheme, skills development, health & environmental awareness programmes were implemented in the slums. Unfortunately since the funding was on year-to-year basis DPG could not continuously work with a long term vision. In the course of the project implementation, work in a couple of slums was also withdrawn as DPG could not meet with the people's expectations. During this period, DPG has also entered into partnership with various Government Departments and implemented specific programmes for the development of the urban poor. After working for four years, DPG has felt the need to have an assessment of its intervention before entering into new areas.

Two consultants Dr. Rukmani Ramani (MIDS) and Dr. N. Manimekalai (Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli) independently studied the interventions, impacts and their individual evaluations and recommendations have been compiled and presented in the following pages. The objectives of the study are :

- ◆ To study various development programmes implemented by DPG since 1995 and their impact.
- ◆ To recommend suitable learnings to assist future interventions on the basis of the evaluation of the consultants and past experiences of DPG.

Methodology : A thorough survey of activities was made both by primary and secondary data analysis supplemented by the discussion with the staff and the Director of the project. One of the consultants personally visited the slums and discussed with the target community the nature of problems they faced and the interventions made by DPG. The consultants clarified various aspects with the staff members and the Director of DPG on matters concerning the target groups and programmes. Apart from this primary information, the secondary information available in annual reports, minutes and other reports have also been studied. In addition, secondary data from Government published reports and offices have been incorporated in the report so as to get a better insight into the existing situation. A brief summary of the programme intervention along with the learning is given in this chapter.

Summary

The “Urban Development Initiatives” was initiated with the aim of bringing about socio-economic transformation of poor communities in adopted slums by providing opportunities to improve the quality of their life. The objectives of the Programme were

- ◆ To improve the capabilities of the slum community to take up an Environmental Development Programme.
- ◆ To create awareness and educate them on general Health and Hygiene.
- ◆ To enhance the earning capacity of youth and women through improved and newer skills.
- ◆ To inculcate the habit of savings and thrift among women and to develop a concept of “People’s Bank”.
- ◆ To bring out the learning potential of children through improved access to education.
- ◆ To collaborate and network with others in development work and implement specific programmes in the urban set-up.

As a first step, Community Centres were opened at each slum with community co-operation and participation. These centres became ideal places for the conduct of DPG’s programmes and for the community to come together. Towards the fulfillment of the objectives the following specific programmes were initiated and implemented. A brief summary of the activities and their impacts are given in this chapter. For more details, refer Chapter 2 (Programme Interventions & Impact).

Education Programme : DPG considered the learning centres as an entry point for its programmes. These centres aimed at improving the quality of education of about 200 school-going children and in this way reduced the number of failures and drop-outs.

Extra-curricular activities such as arts and crafts, sketching and drawing, painting, cultural programmes, educational trips, environmental awareness and summer camps were conducted

periodically. In addition, children were helped to inculcate the habit of savings. 148 children saved an amount of Rs. 6,061/-.

This centre was instrumental in bringing the slum children together into one place and pursue education as a daily habit. DPGs programme also helped 162 adults to become literate through non-formal education.

Women's Group : The women in slums who are more vulnerable to exploitation were organised into six groups. They were made aware of their rights and privileges. More than 500 women joined these groups. They held monthly meetings and discussed problems in their slums. They were given awareness on the importance of savings, hygiene and environment, children's education, alternative employment, Government welfare schemes and their rights in the family and society.

Savings & Credit Programme : The slum dwellers are often caught in indebtedness, pledging their personal belongings to meet day-to-day expenses. Recognizing this never-ending problem of the slum dwellers, DPG started a Savings and Credit Programme in 1995, so as to mobilise the community's resources and make credit accessible to them. Each of the women group members was encouraged to join the Savings Programme.

The total savings amount in three years by 526 members was Rs. 1,57,714/-.

- ◆ From 1996, the savings amount was revolved among the members as credit to needy members, on a rate of interest fixed by themselves.
- ◆ 320 members availed credit worth Rs. 3,50,050/-. Further periodic awareness and orientation programmes were organized to motivate them to save.

In Mangollai slum, the Women's Savings scheme was very successful. Their savings amounted to Rs. 62,635. Presently this group has been assisted by DPG to start a new Savings Group.

Youth Group : About 40-60% of the slum youth drop out of school and they easily get influenced by anti-social elements. To help these youth to use their potential for positive purposes, three youth groups were organized in slums. Further, programmes such as Sports Meet helped them to participate in the project activities and develop a rapport with others in the community. Youth in two slums were provided with sports equipment and materials. The youth on their own initiative organised programmes for Women's Day, Independence Day and Republic Day.

At Azudhinkhan Street slum, Environment Maintenance is being carried out by youth through regular garbage collection and disposal through a load tricycle provided by DPG.

In Azudhinkhan Street slum, a Slum Improvement Council was established with the following objectives :

- ◆ To device action plans for development work within the slum and to mobilise community resources.
- ◆ To formulate and institute a locally generated fund for maintenance of the slum.

In other slums, mischief makers made it impossible to create such a Council, therefore the community at large was mobilised and they contributed in terms of cash and kind for the implementation of programmes in their slum. For example, the Lockma Nagar people contributed their labour on several occasions for the infrastructure development programmes undertaken by DPG. Labour Lane community cleared a dumping yard which was used as a park later.

Health Programme : Apart from the general awareness camps benefiting a large number of women at each slum, AIDS awareness was provided to women through lectures, street play and skits through the initiative of women's group at Lockma Nagar. Working women at two slums were exposed to awareness on diseases afflicting women.

The health and eye camps benefited 185 women cumulatively. DPG also assisted and

*actively coordinated with Government agencies
in health programmes.*

Environment Programme : DPG recognized the need for an Environment Programme in each slum as environmental degradation posed a big health hazard. A thrust on environmental maintenance was approached through the following programmes. An Environmental Awareness Programme for the community, especially women (325), in collaboration with the Pollution Control Board was given. The Environment Maintenance equipment gave an opportunity to slum residents to regularly maintain their slum.

- ◆ Cleaning drives were organised at each slum to commemorate important days and events.
- ◆ A neat approach path was created by the slum volunteers, after motivation and support by DPG at Lockma Nagar, which had posed a problem for several years and was unattended by the Government.
- ◆ A load tricycle provided by DPG helped the Azudhinkhan Street slum community to regularly collect and dispose their waste in a proper way.
- ◆ DPG has capacitated volunteers at each slum to represent their problems to the appropriate department and seek redressal.

Skills Development : Recognizing the presence of a large number of unskilled workers in the slums, DPG conducted Skills Training Programmes as well as Awareness Programmes for skills improvement.

Tailoring : 70 women were trained for six months in 1995. Of them, 15 were given loans for buying sewing machines so as to practise the skills and earn a livelihood. 38 women found jobs in garment factories.

*Tailoring training for girls is found to be more
successful as the trained girls immediately get
jobs in the nearby garment factories.*

Awareness Programme for working women : Two seminars for working women were organised to benefit 40 women who were motivated to strive for improved status of living.

Automobile Mechanism : Skills training was provided to youth in automobile mechanism with the objective of placing them in a job after training, while 12 youth joined the training only two could complete the same.

For boys, training in automobile driving has a good scope for finding immediate gainful employment.

Tie & Dye & Batik Arts Training : Here, 50 slum women were organized by DPG.

- ◆ 31 people from all target slums consisting of widows, disabled and the destitute were helped to receive pensions from Government.
- ◆ DPG itself provided loans to 37 persons under the income-generation programme to help start a small business or to improve existing business. The loan repayment is 85%.
- ◆ A “**Slum Expo**” was conducted in Dec. '94 in co-ordination with the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board where 25 small entrepreneurs were promoted by exhibiting their products in 45 NGO stalls. This gave them an opportunity to get good public exposure as well as develop contact with the customers. Subsequently, DPG enabled several small NGOs and their producers to put up their products in exhibitions conducted by Small Entrepreneurs Product Promotion Organisation (SIPPOs Expo) and APPAs Expo.

Infrastructure Improvement Programme : Under this programme, three Community Centres were built. DPG helped Mangollai slum to receive protected drinking water with the help of the Metro Water Board

For the past 50 years, the slum people had to negotiate through a cesspit filled with drainage water to reach their houses. DPG with the help of the community was able to make the cesspit into a neat road at Lockma Nagar.

Savings and Credit Scheme helped a few slum dwellers at Puliyurpuram to upgrade their dwelling houses.

Partnership Programmes

In implementing the UDI programme, DPG established partnership with many Government Departments involved in poverty alleviation. A rapport with officials, institutions and departments such as City Corporation, Slum Clearance Board, CMDA was established. This ensured their co-operation. Programmes such as Land Sharing Scheme, Urban Basic Services for the poor, Total Literacy Campaign, Population Education, Elimination of Child Labour Programme were started. A partnership with UNICEF was also established in the Child Labour Elimination Programme.

Total Literacy Campaign : The Corporation of Chennai launched the Total Literacy Campaign throughout Chennai City through the Arivoli Iyakkam (Total Literacy Movement) and enlisted the co-operation of 10 lead NGOs to ensure wider and deeper community participation and involvement in the programme.

- ◆ DPG was one of the 10 NGOs selected for this programme and was assigned co-ordination of the programme for Zone VI of Chennai Corporation with 18 divisions and 94 slums.

The programme consisted of three phases - Awareness Creation, Survey and Identification, Teaching Phase and Post-Literacy Phase. The survey revealed 20,600 number of illiterates in Zone VI. Awareness both among the slum residents and the general public was created by the formation of a human chain.

In Zone VI, **62 literacy centres started functioning with the help of volunteer-teachers.** Autorickshaw publicity was carried out on the main roads and streets of Zone VI. The centres were periodically supervised. Midway through this scheme, it was abandoned by the Government due to some internal politics.

Population Education : DPG introduced Population Education as a component of Total Literacy Programme in two slums in Zone VI on a pilot basis so as to bring awareness among the public about population explosion and the need to limit the family size. The training and study materials were provided by the State Resource Centre. With the failure of the Total Literacy Campaign, this programme could not be completed.

Sustainable Chennai Projects : In collaboration with the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, DPG implemented the "Sustainable Chennai Project²" DPG aimed at creating a better environment for the Lockma Nagar target slum by developing the basic infrastructure through this project

- ◆ Due to DPG's representation, a sewerage connection was provided by the Corporation for the entire slum.
- ◆ Several works were undertaken to create the children's park - such as digging, strengthening (with several loads of building debris, sand and stones), spreading layers of red soil and topping with sand. A fence was built around the park.
- ◆ Inner streets and lanes were levelled and a deluse to collect the waste was constructed, water taps and pipes were repaired under the SCP programme.
- ◆ The Corporation heeded the community's representation and laid tar topping on the access path to the main road and this helped to prevent the erosion of the path earlier laid by the community on DPG's motivation. The Corporation further installed eight street lights, four along the approach road and another four in the inner streets and lanes.
- ◆ The community toilets and the bathing and washing cubicles were simultaneously repaired by the Corporation. Hand in hand, DPG also capacitated the slum residents to approach the respective Government Departments to seek redressal for their problems, whenever they arose.

DPG motivated the youth to plant trees in the slum as there were very few trees within the slum. For completing the various infrastructure works, the community provided labour with enthusiasm and spirit. Now they continue their participation by maintaining the assets created and by pooling their cash contributions to effect repairs whenever they occur. The entire area value has increased dramatically after these interventions and the

2 Chennai is the only city in South Asia participating in the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the funding agency and the United Nation's Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) is the co-operating agency, while the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) is the implementing agency for the Sustainable Chennai Project Sch P under SCP with the help of NGOs

residents have started upgrading their individual houses and now it can no longer be called a slum.

Elimination of Child Labour Programme : This programme is being implemented by DPG in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board in Zone VI of Chennai Corporation. The aim of this programme is to eliminate child labour, educate the child and brighten his future prospects by bringing him into the mainstream of life.

- ◆ The initial survey in Zone VI areas conducted by DPG revealed a total of 1063 child labourers. DPG then, enrolled 100 children into formal schools after counselling the families.
- ◆ Two transit camps with 40 children were conducted for children below 10 years in co-ordination with the NGOs in Zone VI so as to further motivate the children to join school. Subsequently, DPG initiated two twelve-month transit schools for children aged above 10 years, one at Gandhi Nagar and the other at Chintadripet catering to a total of 45 children. The transit school children of DPG participated in two Summer Camps. One was conducted by TNSCB at Shenoy Nagar Corporation School in the latter part of April '98 and the other was conducted by DPG for a week to provide them with an opportunity and exposure to arts and crafts. After a year, these children were enrolled into (formal) Corporation schools and were provided with uniform, books, slippers, school bags and other items.

On the whole, 225 child labourers were enrolled into formal schools in a one year programme.

In the current academic year 1998-99, two transit schools have been started for around 40 children by DPG and its associate NGO in Zone VI - New Hope Area Development at Chintadripet and Gandhi Nagar.

Partnership with UNICEF

Special Campaign against the practice of child labour : UNICEF has sponsored this campaign against the practice of child labour. DPG conducted the campaign in Division 91 of Zone VI,

Chennai, covering 12 slums. The campaign included a street play and a motivational talk for around 500 strong audience, who largely consisted of slum residents and child labourers. The outcome of this campaign was that parents of 30 child labourers were convinced of the disadvantages of child labour and subsequently sent their children to school.

Special campaign to discourage bursting of crackers : “Discouraging Bursting of Crackers by Children” was a theme taken up by UNICEF with the support of NGOs. This campaign was useful to educate the general public as well as seek their assistance to shun the practice of child labour and lobby for their support for this cause.

Children’s Day for transit school children : UNICEF sponsored the “Celebration of the Children’s Day for the Transit School Children” in Zone VI, at the Madras School of Social Work.

Computer Education Centre : On the advice of ActionAid, DPG co-ordinated the process for setting up the Computer Education centre for disadvantaged young teenagers from slums studying in one of the Corporation Schools. Tata Infotech agreed to support this venture by providing 10 computers. DPG along with ActionAid decided upon the Corporation School at Shenoy Nagar with a strength of 2000 girl students. This Computer Centre provides the State of Art Computer Education to young student aspirants from low income groups.

Co-ordination

The above programme were implemented by the Programme Officers with assistance from field organisers and regular inputs from the Project Director. The project team received support from DPG Management and Secretarial team

Learnings

Identification of the poor : Often, there is a debate on who the poor are in the urban areas. Urban poverty is a complex issue and encompasses many things. The earnings of the slum dwellers alone are not indicators for poverty as they may be earning more than what is officially declared by the Government as poverty line. To identify the urban poor, the indicators of “quality of life” need to be taken into consideration, these include their living conditions (lack of or inadequate access to housing), clothing, education, unhealthy surroundings, educational status of children and the wage earning capacity of the people.

Within this broad spectrum, again criteria should be developed to identify the poorest so that the really needy benefit from the intervention programmes.

Integrated Programme Versus Sectoral Approach : In the urban areas, an integrated approach, in the beginning may not be a viable option as it is not possible to totally concentrate on all aspects of development given the limited time, money and manpower. Therefore depending on the strengths of the implementing agency, issue-based sectoral programmes may provide a good point of departure. Once the NGO gains the confidence of the people it can then take up other activities.

Choosing core issues like land, house site, child labour eradication and addressing them through networking may pave the way for over-all development of the target community.

Promotion of skill-oriented training with good job potential and awareness-building, health, hygiene and environmental maintenance should form part of any urban dealing with slum projects. Of late, gender, infrastructure development and communicable diseases like HIV / AIDS are becoming real issues needing attention.

Community-Based Organization : People residing at a single slum often hail from different places having varied origins, values and beliefs. Their heterogeneous nature creates a problem in uniting them for a common cause. Therefore it may become

necessary to organize them into activity-based groups so that they have an identity and common goal and vision. Slowly the NGO can think of federating these groups into a larger CBO.

Women's Issues : Women are most vulnerable to exploitation. In urban areas, discrimination against women at work place, violence against women and sexual harassment are rampant. It is vital, that an NGO has some activities to address these issues.

Formation of self-help groups, federating women's self-help groups, networking with other NGOs, providing political awareness among women, encouraging the women's participation in local elections and equipping them for administrative roles could be the focus point of work. This requires joint action with other NGOs.

Youth Forum : Youth in slums usually do not have an identity of their own. They are often misguided or influenced by anti-social elements who initiate them into criminal conduct. In order to prevent this from happening, these youth can be brought together into a forum to bring out their latent skills and talents.

They need to be encouraged to participate in sports activities and develop reading habits by providing a library. The NGO should be in a position to spend some money towards this.

Micro Finance Development linked to Savings : Slum dwellers get daily / weekly wages. They dispose their earnings immediately. In an emergency, they borrow from local money lenders at high rates of interest. The high interest rates coupled with their low income often trap them into a vicious debt cycle. Naturally the youth are often tempted to get into anti-social activities. In urban areas, 'people's bank' concept is gaining ground. This could be encouraged, as the women particularly are doing very well in savings linked to credit scheme. Developing a savings scheme linked to Micro entrepreneurs is a must, provided an entrepreneurship training is given to the eligible, interested and deserving candidates.

NGOs working in urban areas necessarily must have a "Development Finance" scheme linked to the self-help group. Once a self-help group shows credibility with regard to savings collection and small fund management (by way of small credit to members from their own savings) the group would naturally expect a "tie-up" with either a Bank or with other credit institution. But in urban self-help group contexts, an immediate tie-up with a Bank for an individual group may not be possible. In that eventuality definitely the NGO should have its own finance to meet the self-help group's larger demand.

Skills Upgradation / Income-Generation Programme : People who are poorly educated and unskilled have fewer choices of finding gainful employment. Due to increased economic activity, skilled labour is in demand, but unfortunately the urban poor lack skills. The strategy for achieving better employment for all should take into consideration

- ◆ Establishment of non-formal, short-term training units that quickly respond to skills market.
- ◆ Upgradation of skills / promotion of self-employment and support for marketing quality products.

The training costs should include the costs for travel, stipend and food or otherwise the programme will have few takers.

Land : The urban poor often dwell in private / Govt. / temple / canal bank lands which the authorities regard as illegal, whereas the communities argue that they have been living in these places for many years and hence demand authorization and also land entitlement. NGOs can lobby for pro-poor legislation to provide pattas to the squatters wherever the occupied area is not under threat from the surroundings such as a canal etc.

There is a need to establish a Land Settlement Authority. This authority can think of permanently allocating the land to the slum dwellers wherever the location does not pose any problems.

Regularization of Slums and Environmental Programmes : Provision of basic infrastructure either through linkages with the Government Departments or through NGO's initiatives with full

community participation will go a long way in community infrastructure asset creation, which in-turn would impress the Government to regularize the slum. A typical example of this is the cesspit turned into footpath at Lockma Nagar by DPG who joining forces with the community developed the area as a pucca authorized middle class area. After DPG sowed the initial seed, the slum became an ideal ground for development interventions of the Government.

In an urban slum situation, NGOs should boldly take up Infrastructure Development. There should not be any hesitation from the NGO's side with regard to work in an unauthorised slum. There is a strong possibility that once the infrastructure is developed, Government will come up with other civic amenities and will also regularize the slum! Lockma Nagar slum adopted by DPG serves as a good example.

No development programme in a slum can be complete without an environmental programme. People in the slums should be helped to adopt hygienic practices and be given an opportunity to maintain their surroundings clean, by installing dustbins at various places with easy access to them and facilities for their regular disposal and better sanitation facilities. Health practices to eliminate environmental and water pollution should be taught to the people apart from promoting greenery through tree planting and gardening.

Housing : Finding a permanent solution to the habitat problem of the poor in the urban situation calls for co-ordination and co-operation of the appropriate authorities. The makeshift sheds in the slums with congestion and no ventilation, which are susceptible to seasonal threats such as the floods, rain, fire etc. are unsuitable for human living. The slum residents could be encouraged to participate in a Shelter Development Programme, the prerequisite for which should be a home-linked deposit. They may be helped to avail of loans for building houses and individual toilets wherever possible or at least to upgrade their existing homes so that they are safe and do not succumb to the seasonal variations.

Infrastructure Development including house improvement are necessary for creating better amenities for the slum dwellers in all slums. In case of authorised slums, the project has to make sure that the area is safe and people won't be uprooted on account of Infrastructure Development measures of Government.

The slum households after saving a certain amount should be linked to housing finance institutions so that they can benefit from such schemes. NGOs in the long run could take this up.

Learning Centres : Many people in slums do not attach any value to education. Most children from slums studying in schools are first generation learners. The children therefore cannot receive any guidance or encouragement from their parents regarding studies, and the slum home with its lack of electricity, ventilation and spatial arrangements is not very conducive to pursue studies. A learning centre with an identified volunteer / appointed teacher may be established in each slum. These centres could also provide opportunities to upgrade the knowledge of different age groups, like those of middle school drop-outs, working children and adult illiterates in the slum. Programmes such as the following may be introduced :

- (a) Supplementary education for school-going children.
- (b) Non-formal education for drop-outs and illiterates.
- (c) Opportunities for middle school drop-outs to continue their education.
- (d) Periodic parent - teacher meetings
- (e) Linkages with the childrens' formal schools and regular feed back.

Among the above programmes (a) has a priority over the others and is best tackled along with (d) & (e) (b) and (c) can be taken up after sufficient motivation for aspiring target group people.

Health care : Poor people in slums living in unhygienic and impoverished conditions are prone to health hazards. They need to be made aware of the various illnesses, the curative and

preventive measures and proper nutrition in order to maintain their health status as well as utilize the Government services. Periodic awareness programmes on maintenance of general health, hygiene and nutrition, specific diseases such as Tuberculosis, Leprosy, AIDS, Blindness may help prevent the occurrence of these problems to some extent. Health camps could be conducted periodically to screen for various diseases that usually afflict them. Referral services could also form a part of such a camp which will help the people seek specialized medical care.

Collaborative Efforts : Govt. collaboration costs time. Collaboratory programmes are possible in urban slums but demands from Government Departments are often difficult to contend with and as a result the staff tend to concentrate more on procedures which consume a major part of their time.

Careful analysis in choosing the partnership programmes is necessary so that time, money and manpower are not wasted. This reality was borne out of the linkages DPG developed with various Government institutions.

However, since DPG has established good rapport with the officials, staff were invited for seminars / workshops conducted by the Government agencies and also for discussions. DPG was requested to participate in various projects of Government such as Total Literacy, Child Labour Elimination Project, Sustainable Chennai Project and several short-term campaigns. To successfully implement slum interventions, DPG collaborated with other NGOs such as CODIAC, Nesakaram, New Hope Area Development and Government agencies connected not only with poverty alleviation but also the Government Health Centres, Directorate of Arts and Cultural, Ministry of Labour, Department of Forests, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority so as to provide quality programmes to the target group.

Donor Partnership : DPG's programme was implemented on a year-to-year basis without any assured funding support for a length of time. For urban projects to be effective, an assured funding atleast for five years is required for an area. Issue-based interventions like abolition of child labour, land patta, land rights

issues need assured donor partnership with necessary legal support provision, which may need to be established.

Funding : DPG's project has suffered because the sponsorship mechanism was not finalized. The working of the project has proved that child's sponsorship may not be a good option.

Nevertheless, group community sponsorship is possible provided the project dealings are transparent.

NGOs should not try to meddle with the life of the poor if the NGOs are not clear or confident about continued support for atleast 5 years for a project.

Core Staff : Getting committed staff to work in slums and sustaining their interest over a long period is a difficult task, as the staff in urban areas expect salaries with good service conditions. In the absence of such support, many staff tend to consider this work a stop gap arrangement and therefore their commitment level is very low.

There is a need to have a team of core staff on a permanent basis with good service conditions.

Confident core staff can get into collaborative alliances with other development players and the results of such ventures would be very worthy and useful for everyone.

Systems and Procedures : Any NGO working in the urban area needs to establish sound office systems, reporting and documentation procedures. There may also be a need to collect a variety of data by different methods - door to door survey, discussion with the community in the form of focused group discussion and PRA method etc. At times this process may seem to consume a lot of resources. Nevertheless these would help not only for future impact assessment but would also help the core staff to get a thorough feel of the existing situation, orient them to the requirements of the project and give them an exposure to the existing practices of other NGOs and Government Departments in the urban development context.

Conclusion

The last four years of experience in urban development work with the poor made it clear to the DPG team that they need to be involved more in the poverty alleviation programmes in urban areas. But then, who would be willing for a minimum of 5 years of partnership is a big question. There is no point in getting involved in development work if DPG is not quite sure of assured funding. Therefore, DPG should explore the possibility of getting long term partnerships with donors even if it amounts to compromising on issues like sponsorship funding.

2. PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS & IMPACT

DPG's Urban Development Initiatives started functioning in 1994 in Chennai city as a response to the problems faced by the poor in the urban slums. DPG's programmes focused on women and children in the selected communities and interventions were addressed to their needs initially, thereafter, other issues were also identified in the course of time and programmes were planned to address them. The focus of the programmes was on people's participation and their empowerment. Emphasis was laid on equipping the people to cope with change through the process of recognising their situation, identifying their problems and collectively responding with plans and solutions facilitated by DPG. However, DPG took care to see that it did not make people dependent, ensuring that the various programmes instilled confidence in them. Thus, DPG in partnership with ActionAid, initiated the "Urban Development Initiatives" at Chennai. The entire programme period may be divided into

- ◆ Feasibility Study Period
- ◆ Selection of Slums
- ◆ Direct Slum Programme Initiatives
- ◆ Partnership Programmes

Feasibility Study : Initially, a feasibility study was taken up to identify the urban poor in the categories of slum dwellers, pavement dwellers and street children separately, as the urban poor mainly constituted these three categories of people.

The objectives of the study were :

- ◆ To identify the urban poor in the categories of slum³ and pavement dwellers⁴ and street children,⁵ their origin, location, approximate population size, socio-economic background and services available to them.
- ◆ To provide a thorough field-level exposure to the middle level management staff who would eventually be involved in the development programme.

- ◆ To gather information about the programmes of Government and NGOs for each of the categories of urban poor and to establish contact with NGOs and Government Departments related to the development of urban poor.

The various tasks executed to achieve these objectives were:

- ★ First, Chennai core city⁶ area was divided into four clusters and four cluster maps were made.
- ★ Clusterwise, the entire city was covered on foot where the field workers identified slums and visited around 500 slums.
- ★ Secondly, unstructured interviews were held to get details at each slum from the slum leaders as well as other community members.
- ★ Simultaneously, visits to ICDS Balwadis, Nutrition Noon-meal Centres and the Corporation Schools at each of the localities were made.

3 The Government of India Slum Areas (improvement and clearance) Act of 1954 defines a slum "as any predominantly residential area, where the dwellings by reason of dilapidation, over-crowding, faulty arrangements, lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities or any combination of these factors are detrimental to safety, health or morals" People who live in slums are considered as marginal people even though they may be in the heart of a big city Low level education and literacy, low wages, unskilled and child labour, no savings, chronic shortages of cash, no food reserves in the home, pawning of personal goods, lack of privacy, much alcoholism, frequent resort to violence, violence in the training of children, wife beating, high incidence of desertion of wives and children are some of the attributes associated with them

4 Pavement dwellers live on the pavements of the streets or railway platform, subway, over bridge and put up a thatched shelter to escape from the hot sun. They are mostly migrants who do not have a shelter.

5 A Street Child is a child who has made the street his/her home, living, earning, eating, sleeping and recreating without love, support and guidance of parents, elders or guardians

6 Chennai core city This covers an area of 172 sq. km. covered under the Corporation limits.

Madras Urban Agglomeration (MUA) : MUA includes Chennai city and 132 urban areas of Saidapet and 16 units of Sriperumbudur of Chengalput District. The area covered by MUA is 571.93 kms. MUA has a population of 53 61 lakhs (1991 census)

- ★ Thirdly, the concerned officials of Chennai Corporation, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) and other such agencies involved in work related to slum development were contacted.
- ★ Fourthly, the heads or the staff of other NGOs working in slums were met with and details of their work and its impact on the target group were secured.
- ★ Fifthly, regarding Street Children, once their locations were identified, they were interviewed informally to secure information covering their origin, background, level of education, personal habits, occupation and earning, food habits, rising and sleeping pattern and other miscellaneous information.
- ★ In the case of pavement dwellers, details were collected using unstructured interviews to find out about their habits, values, lifestyle, occupation, earnings and their background.
- ★ Also literature on the subject was studied and relevant information was documented as secondary source of data.

Outcome of the Feasibility Study

Slums

- Five to six unit maps for each of the four clusters were prepared with details like, exact slum location, landmarks, police station, religious institutions, educational institutions, noon-meal centres, ICDS Balwadis, health post, indication of NGO's presence etc. to get an overview of the services, catering to the particular slums.
- First-hand information on Chennai slums and the imminent and urgent needs of people living in them were recognised and documented.

Urban poor roughly constitute one third of the total population in Chennai city i.e. more than 14 lakhs out of the total core area population of 38,77,001. The feasibility study was restricted to the Chennai core city area.

Year	No. of Slums	Population in thousands in Chennai core city
1931	189	734
1941	205	881
1951	306	1416
1961	548	1729
1971	1202	3132
1981	1349	3276
1991	1470	3841

Source : Slum Clearance Board (1992)

The major cause for the formation of slums points to the migration of people from rural areas to the city in search of livelihood. According to the City Corporation and TNSCB records, the number of slums in Chennai have shown a rapid increase from 189 in 1931 to 1470 in 1991. The age of slums varied from 1 to 50 years with a large number of slums in the 10 - 20 years category.

A glance at the base line data provides a clear understanding of their socio-economic conditions such as :

- ★ Slum residents belonged to the lowest class in social structure with the Scheduled Castes constituting a majority.
- ★ Basic infrastructure facilities like potable drinking water, electricity, sanitation, sewerage and drainage and stable houses were all lacking.
- ★ Older slums have relatively better infrastructure compared to the recent ones.
- ★ Slums served with eviction notices do not benefit from improvement schemes of the Government for lack of priority and the objection of the land owner.

Regarding their socio-economic status, more than 60% of adults were illiterates with the other 40% having studied upto the primary level, a few exceptions reaching higher grades. Even within this 40%, atleast half of them do not know to write properly.



Summer camp for children from slums



Group meeting



Lockma Nagar approach path - A cesspit-denying access to the slum



Motivated community taking up work for the footpath



Foot path work in progress



Tar topping to the earlier footpath, Children's park and a dustbin constructed with CMDA's help



Street Vendor in Lockma Nagar helped under IGP



Youth supported to prepare wigs under IGP

Regarding their children's education,

- ★ For many parents, education has no value since they believed that it did not fetch better jobs. Such parents did not insist on their children going to school regularly to pursue education.
- ★ About 19% of the children enrolled in Class I dropped out before they completed 5 years of schooling and 40% dropped out before they reached Class VIII. Over 30% of SC/ST girls dropped out of primary school compared to 19.6% for all girls (state census).

Their occupation pattern showed that a majority of adults were unskilled workers with the exception of a few semi-skilled persons. Around 60%-70% worked as labourers on a daily or contract basis.

- ★ Among labourers the majority worked in construction or allied activities and their work got often disrupted due to seasonal variation.
- ★ Among women, a majority worked as domestic servants.

In case of social groupings and affiliations, most of the slums had youth groups like Podunala Mandram, Ambedkar Mandram, Rajini Mandram etc. The leader for these Mandrams as well as the community was not elected by popular choice, but was the person with more push and might.

Pavement Dwellers : These people make busy pavements their homes and move to work-areas in the city to eke out a living. The estimated number of pavement dwellers is around 25,500 in Chennai city.

- ★ Their socio-economic status is very low and they work as labourers, rickshaw pullers or sell wares on the platform.
- ★ They do not care for their children and often give them for adoption in the guise of orphans.
- ★ They lack social control and entertain themselves with liquor and illicit relationships.
- ★ The Government's programme in 1990 for pavement dwellers which included night shelter and sanitation facilities did not have wide coverage.

Many dwellers preferred to stay on the pavements rather than shift elsewhere, therefore the Governments Programme did not take off.

Street Children : A group of children in the age bracket of 5-16 taking asylum on the streets, railway stations and bus stands and who make their living by doing menial jobs are called street children. They are marginally employed, exposed to harsh environment of the streets and lack the minimum basic care. They are influenced, abused and misled by older street children and criminals. Disillusionment with the existing conditions at home, poverty, broken families or attraction of city life have been cited as reasons for their leaving home.

Concerted efforts are being made both by Government organisations as well as NGOs at present, to help these children to get into the mainstream of life and lead a normal childhood. The Government has various schemes to alleviate the problems of all the categories of urban poor. However, most of the schemes do not have wide coverage of the majority in each of these categories. Many of the schemes turn defunct since they are cornered by influential people or politicians and are hence not in operation for the target group. A few schemes, though beneficial, have no takers as the people are ignorant of the scheme meant for them.

Slums : Roughly about 175 NGOs are working for the urban poor. Around 60% of slums have NGO presence but few have holistic approach towards the development of community. The piecemeal approach of various agencies failing to focus on different age groups and address critical issues, coupled with lack of co-ordination between themselves while working in a single slum, has to some extent contributed to apathy of the participants. Many agencies do not concentrate on improving the economic status of the target group which is the back-bone of any successful development initiative.

Analysis and interpretation of the information collected and compiled from various sources (including first hand experiences)

led to the conclusion that each of the categories of urban poor calls for programme interventions in more than one dimension. The study team concluded that about five lakhs people in Chennai core city can be classified as real poor, among whom atleast 2-3 lakhs of people are in need of renewed socio-economic initiatives to improve their lives.

Selection of Slums : Ten criteria were evolved to identify the deserving category of people considered the poor in the slum :

Criteria for identifying the urban poor

They are Families -

- ★ Whose annual family income is below Rs.18,000/-.
- ★ Who have been living in a thatched shelter hut for more than five years.
- ★ Who have no regular income.
- ★ Whose main bread winner does not find work for more than 200 days in a year.
- ★ Whose asset level is below Rs. 5,000/-.
- ★ Who are with high dependency ratio.
- ★ Who do not have land entitlement in the city or in village and or having possession of less than 150 sq. ft. in slum.
- ★ Among whom more than 70% of the family members are illiterate.
- ★ With women headed casual labour households.
- ★ Who send their children to Corporation School / who do not send their children to school.

Target slums were identified as those having a majority of poor families. Again amongst them a ten point criteria were applied to finalise the target slums for development work. In the urban set-up the development work is affected by many conditions which might hamper the progress and it becomes necessary to check them out so as to ensure the continuity of the work in the long run.

Criteria for slum selection

- ★ Concentration of minimum 100 families.
- ★ Poor basic infrastructure facilities (water, sanitation, lighting).
- ★ Not prone to natural calamities all the time.
- ★ Not a known anti-social element area.
- ★ Not served with an eviction notice recently.
- ★ Willingness or co-operation of people in terms of money.
- ★ Ready availability of place for programmes.
- ★ Should not be a 100% land owning families.
- ★ Should be more than 10 years old.
- ★ Slum area not included under major City Development Plan.

15 slums were identified as “possible slums” for development work.

Regarding pavement dwellers’ rehabilitation, DPG found little scope for the programme’s success as pavement dwellers found the idea of resettlement stifling and showed little enthusiasm to involve themselves in the programme.

Regarding interventions for street children, the intention to start a night shelter was dismissed as this involved taking up large premises for rent/lease on a long run, involving a high cost which no one was ready to sponsor.

DPG spent the initial 6 months in conceptualising the programme and the strategy giving people the opportunities to put forth their ideas and choices. Such an approach would give the ownership of the programme into the hands of the people. As pilot action, it proposed to have limited initiatives which would pave the way for more involvement of people in the programme.

The field staff initiated partnership-based discussions with the community at all the “possible slums”. During these discussions, certain slums were found to be un-co-operative. Hence they were dropped from the list.

Reasons for dropping the slums

- ☆ In a particular slum (Ponnan Street) the slum leader wanted the agency to route everything through him.
- ☆ Representatives of a politico-religious group laid restrictions on the programme to be carried out at another slum (Mangalapuram).
- ☆ In yet another slum (Namasivayapuram), there were two sections, who opposed each other and who would not co-operate and let development take its course.
- ☆ In the process of initiating programmes, certain other slums were dropped for lack of co-operation from the target group and subsequently new slums were identified for development work.

The preparatory process included :

- ☆ Socio-economic survey for the selected households in the target slums.
- ☆ Rapport-building exercises with the target groups.
- ☆ Designing need-based programmes incorporating people's ideas.
- ☆ Identification of field level organisers.
- ☆ Identification of a convenient location within each slum as a contact centre.

Regarding intervention in slums, certain principles were decided upon as key elements.

- ★ Starting activities, which the majority of the community conceives as the most suitable and beneficial.
- ★ Human Resource Development mostly in the form of skills training and organisation inputs to families.
- ★ A certain minimum level of contribution from the target group in the form of materials / human labour.
- ★ Networking and collaboration with other Government Departments or agencies who are meant to do similar development work.

Problems Identified : By mid '95, programme links were established in 10 target slums and the problems were identified as follows :

- ★ **Education :** Majority of children study in the Corporation schools and the parents are not happy with the quality of education. Pupils do not show interest in their studies and as a result their foundations are weak. Parents are helpless as the majority of them are incapable of teaching their children.
- ★ **Environment and Sanitation :** The slums are mostly unhygienic with water stagnation and garbage thrown all over, and the people have to live in extremely insanitary conditions with very few toilets. Inner roads and lanes are often difficult to negotiate. Dust bins are insufficient and garbage disposal is irregular. Awareness of the people on environment is not sufficient. There is no proper recreation area for the children in the slums.
- ★ **Health :** People's awareness on health is very limited. Therefore proper preventive measures are not taken. Women often neglect their health and do not seek medical care for minor ailments. Their environment also does not help them in maintaining good health.
- ★ **Pledging and Debt :** The majority of the slum people are daily wage earners and do not have the habit of thrift. They also may not find employment every day and therefore do not have regular income. In times of shortage of cash, they pledge the articles that they possess and borrow money from opportunistic pawn brokers / money lenders, at high rates of interest ranging from 36% to 180% per year. In order to redeem the pledged articles or to pay up the original debt they take fresh loans and thus get into a vicious debt cycle. The men spend lavishly on liquor and their other needs, leaving little income for the family. The women work as maids / construction workers and in this way, earn a supplementary income, which goes towards the family requirements.
- ★ **Lack of Socialisation and Feeling of Oneness :** The people living in a single slum often have different origins and do not have the habit of coming together for a common purpose. The leader of the slum (not by consensus) does not actually take

care of the people's needs. There is no forum to come together or discuss their common problem be it for women, youth or others.

- ★ **Lack of Skills / Access to loans for Business Development** : 50% of the people did not possess specific skills and pursued only jobs that needed no skills, and a few were semi-skilled workers and petty traders. In the case of women, skills were conspicuous by their absence and thus led them to menial jobs / jobs with meagre pay. The tiny traders among them had hardships trying to repay their debts from the money lenders.

Apart from the above issues, ownership of land, bad housing, threat of eviction, political interference, internal conflicts and alcoholism were identified as issues.

Programme Initiatives

Aim : To bring about socio-economic transformation of poor communities in the adopted slums by providing opportunities to improve the quality of their life.

Objectives

- ★ To improve the capabilities of the slum community to take up Environmental Development Programme.
- ★ To create awareness and educate them on general Health and Hygiene.
- ★ To enhance the earning capacity of youth and women through improved and newer skills.
- ★ To inculcate the habit of savings and thrift among women and to develop a concept of "People's Bank".
- ★ To bring out the learning potential of children through improved access to education.
- ★ To collaborate and network with others in development work and implement specific programmes in the urban set-up.

Community Centres were opened at each slum with community co-operation and also participation in terms of labour and local

materials. The community provided a suitable place within the slum in three slums for constructing the Community Hall.

Three Community Halls measuring 30 ft. x 40 ft. have been built each at Lockma Nagar, Logaiya Maistry Street and Azudhinkhan Street slums on Government land and in other slums, the locals allotted a place within the slum for DPG centres to function. This centre provided an ideal place for the conduct of DPG's programmes and for the community to come together for meetings.

Education Programme : The objectives of the education programme are as follows:

- ☆ To enhance the quality of education of the children and thereby their cognitive skills and
- ☆ To develop the personality of children through exposure to various extra-curricular activities.

DPG basically considered the opening of the learning centre as an entry point for its programmes. This Centre aimed at improving the quality of education given to school-going children and reduced the number of failures and drop-outs. This Centre thus gave ample opportunities for children in the age group of 5-16 years to unfold their potential and talents.

The classes in each slum were supervised by an Organiser for two hours in the evening from 5.00 P.M. to 7.00. P.M. Monthly examinations were conducted to monitor their progress which was recorded in progress reports. All the students contributed a nominal amount of Rs. 5/- to Rs. 7/- per month.

The Learning Centre provided an opportunity for the children in each slum to gather in one place and pursue their studies under guidance. This Centre has helped them to inculcate the habit of doing homework regularly and develop an interest in their studies and curiosity for knowledge.

The Centre functioned for four years from 1994 to 1997 and has reduced the number of failures and drop-outs to an extent. Now the pupils have got into a habit of pursuing their studies and study regularly on their own and approach their seniors within the slums to clear their doubts while doing their homework. The Table below provides details of attendance, failures, drop-outs etc.

Table 1 - Details of Children's Learning Centres

S.No.	Year	No. of slums	Average Monthly Attendance	No. Passed	No. Failed	No. Dropped Out
1	1994-95	6	234	207	17	10
2	1995-96	6	175	158	10	7
3	1996-97	5	178	165	9	4
4	1997-98	5	188	178	6	4

From June '98 these Learning Centres did not function formally. Nevertheless young children gathered in a common place and the Organiser guided the children for some days after which the children learned to manage their studies with help from their seniors

In the academic year 1994-95, DPG wanted others in the slum (apart from school goers) to access the Centre's facilities to bring out their faculties. Therefore, 30 illiterate adults were motivated to become literate in one-year through Non-formal Education class in collaboration with the State Resource Centre. This activity ceased to continue in the later years as the Government started the Total Literacy Campaign and DPG extended its full support to Government machinery and thereby 162 adults from our adopted slums became literate

Extra-curricular activities were encouraged among children and they were exposed to a good number of activities to provide awareness and develop their personality Some of them are as follows.

- ☆ On the request of the children attending the Learning Centre, DPG started the children's savings group, where the children could save regularly and utilise their savings in time of need. By August '98, 148 children saved an amount of Rs 6,061/- This amount was returned to the children in September '98 in view of DPG's withdrawal.
- ☆ Other activities conducted are provided in page 34 :

S.No.	Activity	Place & Date	Aim	No. of children benefited/ participated
1	Yearly Summer Camps 3 consecutive years (1996-97-98) (Organised by DPG)	Scripture Union, Mahabalipuram	Exposure to arts & crafts under specialised guidance	130
2	Sketching and Drawing Competition (Organised by DPG)	DPG Office Premises 27 th July, '96	To recognise and encourage creativity among slum children	36
3	Painting Competition (Organised by ActionAid - Co-ordinated by DPG)	Good Shepherd Mahal - 27 th & 28 th July, '97	To provide an opportunity for children from poor backgrounds to recognise their own talent	60
4	Cultural Programme on 50 th Independence Day (On community's initiative)	Lockma Nagar 28 th Aug, '97	To commemorate this occasion	200
5	Visit to Medical Exhibition (Organised by Rotary Club)	Government General Hospital, Chennai 15 th Nov, '98	To expose the children to the preventive aspects of various diseases	41
6.	Two day Art and Culture camp (Organised by Directorate of Art & Culture - Co-ordinated by DPG)	Jawahar Bal Bhavan	To help orient poor children to understand their culture and develop creativity	175
7	Educational trip (Organised by DPG - Assisted by the Social Work Trainee)	Children's Park - 22 nd Feb, '98	To help spend their leisure in an enjoyable and constructive way	27
8	Two week camp at Jawahar Bal Bhavan (Organised by Jawahar Bal Bhavan - Co-ordinated by DPG)	Jawahar Bal Bhavan - May '98	To get an exposure to dance, drama, crafts, drawing	25
9	Environment Awareness organised by DPG in collaboration with Chettinad Education Trust	Mangollai	To create environment consciousness	25
10.	Teacher's Day Celebration by the children (On community initiative)	Logaiya Maistry Street on Oct. '97	To celebrate the Teacher's Day and exhibit the talents of children	3

Towards the completion of the programme, a participatory evaluation showed that the summer camps, painting and sketching competitions, art and culture camp, sports events provided the children ample opportunity to recognise their own talent and areas of interest.

Commemoration of important national days such as Independence Day, Republic Day, Teacher's Day etc., improved their patriotic feeling towards the country and motivated them to participate in the celebrations with good spirit.

A good number of children were aware of the importance of personal hygiene, environment, causative factors for the commonly prevalent diseases.

In a nutshell it can be said that the UDI project provided exposure and opportunities for the personality development of the disadvantaged children in slums.

Women's Group : Women are a marginalised lot and are most vulnerable to exploitation. In order to make them aware of their rights and privileges and to make them more confident, women in target slums were organised into six groups.

The objectives of formation of women's group were

- ☆ To make them more aware of things so that they can lead a normal and healthy life.
- ☆ To provide an opportunity for women to meet in a common forum and bring out their hidden potentialities.

DPG facilitated the formation of the Women's Group in early 1995. More than 500 women from all the slums joined these groups. Monthly meetings were regularly conducted where the women were initiated into discussions amongst themselves about the problems in the slum and were also given awareness on the importance of savings, hygiene, children's education, alternative

employment, welfare schemes of Government, Health aspects and their own rights in the family and society. Women's Day was commemorated and celebrations were organised in Azudhinkhan Street and Mangollai. Several games were organised for women and the children put up a cultural show on the occasion.

Savings and Credit Programme : The objectives of the programme were :

- ☆ To develop the habit of savings among the poor and help them in the process to have a good concept of People's Bank.
- ☆ To mobilize community's resources and make effective use of them.
- ☆ To improve capabilities of the members through their capacitation for efficiency in operations.

Recognising the slum dwellers' problems of pledging and indebtedness, a Savings and Credit Programme was started in 1995. The aim of this programme was to mobilise the community's resources and make credit accessible to slum dwellers so as to reduce their exploitation and develop a habit of savings among them.

Each member saved on a monthly basis varying from Rs.20/- to Rs. 30/-. The collected money was deposited (in the joint account opened in the name of Group Leader and DPG's Organiser) in the nearest nationalised bank. The total savings amount in the three years by 526 members came to Rs. 1,57,714/- including interest, out of which 248 members withdrew from the scheme intermittently for various reasons such as change of residence etc.

To motivate the community to save regularly, DPG conducted an awareness meeting in June '96 where a popular film actor, Nazar, was invited to speak on the importance of savings. Women from all the target slums participated in this programme. In April '97, an Orientation Programme on Savings and Credit was organised in collaboration with the State Resource Centre, where 200 women from all the target slums participated. These two events were covered by the news media.

Table 2 - Savings Group

Name of the Slum	Total members	Amount saved	Bank Interest
Puliyurpuram (From Mar. '95)	214	39,985.00	835.20
Mangollai (From June '95)	90	62,635.00	676 00
Lockma Nagar (From June '95)	78	13,645.00	303.00
Logaiya Maistry Street (From May '95)	78	17,160.00	266 00
Azudhinkhan Street (From Aug. '96)	66	21,990.00	219.00
Total	526	1,55,415.00	2,299.00

Total including bank interest - Rs. 1,57,714/-

Credit Scheme : From '96 onwards, the savings amount was revolved among members as credit to needy members identified by the group. Credit was provided for health care, school fees, business improvement, renovation of house etc The rate of interest of Rs. 5 / Rs.100 as well as the period of repayment (5 months) were decided by the community. 320 applicants have utilised the loan amounting to Rs 3,50,050/-. Table 3 gives the details of the credit programme.

Table 3 - Credit Scheme

Name of the Slum	No. of Borrowers	Amount given as loan (Rs.)	Repayment Due as on 31.12.98	Interest accrued through loans (Rs.)
Puliyurpuram	90	87,400.00	—	5,939.79
Mangollai	142	1,63,500.00	—	23,245.00
Lockma Nagar	26	30,800 00	4,850 00	3,610.00
Logaiya Maistry	34	39,850.00	—	4,923.00
Azudhinkhan Street	28	28,500 00	—	4,799 00
Total	320	3,50,050.00	4,850.00	42,516.79

In Dec. '98, the savings amount along with interest accruals from revolving fund and bank interest was returned to the existing members (278) proportionate to their respective savings. The Savings and Credit Programme was very well accepted by the slum dwellers. The social pressure and fear of ridicule by the rest of the community made the members repay promptly.

The programme has helped to create a concept of thrift among the target group women.

After a few years of the Savings & Credit Programme, it is inevitable that people like to get back their amount. Further follow-up showed that in two slums, after the money was returned to the inmates again a Savings Group has been started.

- ☆ Puliurpuram Savings Group was started in Jan '99 with initial membership of 25. The subscription per month is Rs. 50/- In the last 3 months, the amount collected is Rs. 3,500/- in this slum.
- ☆ Mangollai Slum Savings Group was started with a membership of 30 people. The subscription per month is also Rs. 50/-

In the above two slums, DPG workers periodically meet the slum inmates to guide them, the earlier office bearers from the slum have taken up the responsibility of the Savings & Credit operations.

In the other slums also, there is a probability of starting such Savings Groups. Therefore in this programme, it can be said that the objectives of the programme have been met very well.

Youth Group : Almost 40%-60% of the youth from the slums drop out of school before reaching the high school. Often they get influenced by anti-social elements and turn to crime.

The objectives of the Youth Forum may be stated as follows.

- ☆ To mobilize human resources and labour for carrying out works related to infrastructure development within the slum.
- ☆ To pursue works with local bodies and act as representatives for maintenance of their respective slums.

- ☆ To recognize their aptitude and skills and guide them in specific skills development

The youth in the target slums were organised into youth groups in 1995. To create a good rapport with the youth and encourage them in sports activities, a Sports Meet was conducted in Aug. '95 where the slum youth and the children from the different Learning Centres participated.

- ☆ DPG has provided two carrom boards (with 50% contribution by the youth), a foot ball and a skipping rope for the Learning Centre students with 25% contribution from them.
- ☆ DPG motivated the youth to organise themselves into a team as they were good in playing cricket and provided the needed equipment to 11 youth, such as bats, stumps, balls, T-shirts etc. Consequently this team won a local match.
- ☆ Youths participated in the 51st Independence Day Celebrations and organised cultural programmes.
- ☆ Republic Day celebrations on 27th Jan. '98 including various sports and cultural programmes were totally planned, organised and conducted by youth.

Apart from their active involvement in sports, these youth provide active support and lend a helping hand in the implementation of the developmental activities for the slum.

- ☆ The youth from the target slums participated in the "Slum Olympics" conducted by TNSCB and won a few prizes.
- ☆ In Puliurpuram, the youth have cleared a side walk leading to the slum and planted trees to improve the environment.
- ☆ In Labour Lane, the youth were motivated to clear a park near their slum which was earlier used as a dumping ground.
- ☆ At Azudhinkhan Street, they have taken the initiative of environmental maintenance through regular garbage collection and disposal. On the request of the

residents, a load tricycle for garbage collection and disposal has been provided by DPG Members of the Slum Improvement Council have taken the work of co-ordinating the environmental sanitation activity within and around the slum.

- ☆ At Lockma Nagar they have been instrumental in organising other slum inmates for participation in the implementation of various works for infrastructure development.

Follow-up of the programme in few slums showed that youth in target slums do not meet regularly as a formal group but continue to meet in times of need and pool their efforts for a common cause.

Youth in Puliypuram, Lockma Nagar, Labour Lane, Mangollai and Azudhinkhan are still representing their slum's problems to the local bodies and are pursuing works.

Regarding the Skills Improvement Programme, not many could be motivated to enrol for skills development programme in the project period because of their high expectation of free service.

Slum Improvement Council : The objectives of the Slum Improvement Council are

- ☆ To devise action plans for development work within the slum and mobilize the community resources both in terms of labour and cash.
- ☆ To formulate and institute a locally generated fund for maintenance of the slum.
- ☆ To leave in place an anchored and sustainable process to pursue implementation of neighbourhood upgrading.

Azudhinkhan Street Slum Improvement Council continues to function. Individual subscriptions of Rs.10/- by the members are utilised towards maintenance works for the slum such as repairs to the community T.V., maintenance of toilets, water pump etc. Efforts have been made to form similar Councils at other slums but these efforts were unsuccessful due to mischief mongers within the slums who prevented the formation of such Councils since it was seen as a threat to their position in the slum.

Health Programme : The objectives of the health programme were :

- ☆ To increase the awareness of people on health issues and striving for better health status through community education, health camps.
- ☆ To inculcate the habit of healthy living among slum dwellers through teaching personal hygiene and cleanliness of their surroundings.
- ☆ To help prevent health deterioration by arranging health camps to screen for various diseases and disabilities and help in referrals for specialized services.
- ☆ To assist and actively co-ordinate with government agencies in their health and immunization programmes.

Since the slums had a fairly good access to medical facilities, the role of DPG was to improve the health status of the community through awareness building and developing effective linkages with the health functionaries. In the four year period, the following programmes have been conducted:

- ☆ An Awareness Camp highlighting the importance of general health and hygiene was conducted in six slums in June '95 which was attended by 200 women and children from the target slums. Services of the resource persons from Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association were utilised for this programme.
- ☆ An AIDS Awareness Camp was organised on 5th May '96 for slum women utilising the expertise of Tamil Nadu AIDS Control Society. 40 women from the target slums participated in this programme.
- ☆ A placement trainee from Stella Maris College arranged for a street play utilising the expertise of Nalamdana Charitable Trust in Lockma Nagar on March 6th '98 to improve the general hygiene and provide awareness on AIDS to the community.
- ☆ During pulse polio campaigns 1997-98, the mothers of children under 5 years were motivated to get their

children immunised in the target slums and the field staff also assisted the health workers from IPP-V to make the campaign successful.

- ☆ DPG was selected by the Government as one of the leading NGOs to motivate people and co-ordinate an eye camp organised on the eve of 50th Independence Day by the Lion's Club and the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. Out of the total of 50 people who were selected from all the slums for examination, four have undergone the cataract surgery and received spectacles.
- ☆ A Seminar conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour for 40 slum women-workers in slums highlighted the causes, clinical symptoms and prevention of diseases afflicting women.
- ☆ DPG organised a general Health Camp at Lockma Nagar slum in Jan. '98 in which 110 people benefited.
- ☆ A few talented members of the Lockma Nagar Savings Group presented a skit to the women in the slum to create awareness on AIDS in Feb. '98
- ☆ On 27th June, '98, another Eye Camp was organised by the State Government on the occasion of the 75th birthday of the Chief Minister in which 25 people benefited from screening examinations and medication and three were operated for cataract.

Apart from the above programmes, DPG regularly assisted two health workers from IPP-V who visited each of the slums once a week and provided immunisation, counselling and vitamin supplements to the pregnant women and children under 5 years.

DPG's Health Programme has been instrumental in improving the basic awareness of women and men in the community on health aspects in general. Participatory evaluation showed that especially they were aware of HIV/AIDS and many other minor/major commonly occurring diseases. They have realised the importance of immunisation and have better child rearing practices. Also they are utilising the Government machinery especially in the pre and post natal stages and respond well to the Government health workers.

Therefore this programme has benefited the target group and especially made the women aware of the need for the timely health care who otherwise neglected their health.

Environment Programme : DPG recognised the need for an Environmental Programme in each of the slums as environmental degradation posed a big hazard and created health problems for the inhabitants. DPG initiated various measures depending upon the circumstances and need of each of its target slums.

The objectives of this programme were :

- ☆ To involve the community in the neighbourhood environment management for sustainability of the programme in the long run.
- ☆ To prevent deterioration of the existing infrastructure through proper maintenance.
- ☆ To provide dustbins at suitable points and have regular disposal facility

The programmes are as follows :

- ☆ The residents in each of the six slums were motivated to maintain their environment clean. They were also provided with maintenance equipment in three slums - Lockma Nagar, Puliurpuram and Labour Lane for regular maintenance of slum. Enthusiastic youth and women lent a hand in cleaning the slum periodically.
- ☆ Around 60 trees were planted in various places within the target slums enlisting the co-operation of the slum community.
- ☆ Kitchen gardens have been promoted in three slums where there was active co-operation from the members.
- ☆ World Environment Day (5th June) was celebrated in all the target slums in 1995 where the thrust was given to maintain environmental cleanliness.

Therefore, cleaning campaigns were organised.

- ☆ 100 women participated in the cleaning campaign in 1996 and 120 women participated in cleaning their slums in 1997.

- ☆ 80 women from target slums were motivated to buy smokeless chulahs at subsidised rates from the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board.
- ☆ DPG motivated the Lockma Nagar community to participate in terms of labour and part-cash mobilisation towards converting an approach area which posed a severe problem to the inmates previously into a neat path with channelisation of the water through a pipe, strengthening the area with several loads of rubbish and stones and laying of red sand. Today Lockma Nagar has a good access to the main road.
- ☆ At Labour Lane, a park was cleared and cleaned and transformed into a children's play area with the initiative of youth. This park had earlier been used as a dumping yard for wastes by the residents.
- ☆ A clean-up drive was organised on the occasion of the 50th Independence Day in all the target slums where the inmates of the slum joined hands with the Corporation workers in clearing and cleaning the slum environs.
- ☆ DPG organised a two-day Environment Awareness Programme for all its target slums in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and 175 women and children from the target slums participated in the programme. The themes were, control of pollution, need for environment maintenance and tree plantation.
- ☆ Again in June '98, a one-day Workshop on the theme "Women and Environment" was organised at Periyar Science and Technology Centre in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board which emphasised the role of women in environment upkeep and sanitation. 150 women from the target slums participated in this programme.
- ☆ On the request of the community at Azudhinkhan Street, DPG provided a Load Tricycle for regular garbage collection and disposal. The responsibility of maintenance of the tri-cycle has been taken up by the

residents This tricycle is used to collect the individual household waste and dispose it properly

- ☆ DPG motivated youth to plant 25 trees within the Lockma Nagar slum in March '98.
- ☆ DPG has helped to capacitate volunteers at each slum to represent their problems to the Corporation/ appropriate body whenever they faced a problem. As a result, the residents have been capacitated to confidently report their problems and seek redressal.

Follow-up action showed that people were still involved in clearing their slum periodically and wastes were deposited in the dust bin by most of them with a few exceptions.

The infrastructure developments at Lockma Nagar such as the park construction, installation of dust bins, toilet upgradation have created a better environment for the inhabitants and they continue to utilise the amenities.

In general, people are aware of the need to maintain their surroundings clean. But this does not imply that the slums have a neighbourhood environment programme in place as the programme period is not sufficient to expect behaviour change in a short period (3-4 years) of time. Also in all slums major infrastructure improvements have not been made and as a result, some of the environmental hazards continue to harass the inhabitants.

Skills Development : Recognising the fact that there are a large number of unskilled workers in slums, DPG conducted skills training programmes as well as awareness programmes for skills development.

Tailoring : In 1995, DPG conducted a tailoring training for two batches of 35 women in a six month period. 15 women were provided with loan advances to buy a sewing machine each. Of the total women trained, a few (38) have joined garment factories and earn a monthly income varying from Rs. 800 - Rs. 1500. A few of them are catering to the tailoring needs of the people in and around the slum. Two women were helped to secure a loan from Government for self-employment under Nehru Rozgar Yojana for opening tailoring shops.

Awareness Programme for Working Women : Two seminars for working women of Lockma Nagar and Azudhinkhan Street were conducted in which 40 women were motivated to strive to improve their status of living. The focus of the discussion was on alternative trades with demand, training for trades and the role of women in slum households. This seminar was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour.

Automobile Mechanism : In order to provide skills training to youth in this trade, DPG collaborated with Community Development Information and Action Centre (CODIAC) and initiated the process which included meetings with youth, interaction with parents, selection of interested youth and their enrolment for training. 38 youth showed an interest in the Orientation Meeting, 12 youth later joined the one-year training. The benefits include Rs. 20/- from employer and Rs. 10/- from CODIAC for each working day. Finally only two boys have completed the job training and placement. Now efforts are on to place them in mechanic sheds with regular remuneration.

Tie & Dye & Batik Arts : A three-day training in Tie & Dye and Batik was organised in June '98 for 50 slum women by DPG with the expertise provided by resource personnel from Jawahar Bal Bhavan. The women produced aesthetic and colourful designs during the course of their training. Assistance in pattern designing and more practice can help these women to perfect this art. Some of them have plans for using their newly learnt skill to start a business by producing and marketing these products.

Bringing benefits from Govt. schemes : DPG has helped 31 people from all target slums to avail the pensions for widows, the disabled, the handicapped and the destitute provided by the Government under the welfare scheme. These people were made to apply through proper channel and DPG staff provided the follow-up, facing corrupt officials and finally the pensions got sanctioned by the taluk office.

Six women from the target slums attended the training organised by Initiatives of Women in Development, another Chennai-based NGO for making soap, agarbathi etc.

Apart from the above efforts, DPG also provided 37 loans under the income-generation programme so as to improve an existing

business or to start a new business, for micro-entrepreneurs. Loans were provided for trades such as tailoring, birds shop, welding and cycle repair shop, wig shop in the range of Rs. 2,000/- to Rs. 3,000/- . The percentage of loan recovery is 85. These loans have prevented the target group entrepreneurs from falling prey to the wily money lenders, and thereby provided them a scope to improve their business.

Table No.4 gives details of the loans provided in each slum :

Table 4 - Self-employment loan given from DPG

S.No.	Name of the Slum	No. of Loan	Amount (Rs.)	Interest	Total	Amt. Repaid	Balance
1.	Puliyurpuram	13	41,973.00	4,944.50	46,917.50	46,917.50	—
2.	Logaiya Maistry Street	4	9,375.00	641.50	10,016.50	9,581.50	435.00
3.	Mangollai	3	6,224.00	817.50	7,041.50	7,041.50	—
4.	Labour Lane	3	2,400.00	121.50	2,521.50	2,521.50	—
5.	Lockma Nagar	13	44,750.00	5,560.00	50,310.00	35,160.00	15,150.00
6.	Azudhinkhan Street	1	2,000.00	150.00	2,150.00	2,060.00	90.00
Grand Total			104322.00	12113.50	116435.50	100560.50	15,875.00

Marketing Initiatives : Besides the routine programmes for slum development, DPG has also contributed in a small way towards developing marketing facilities for small producers / NGOs selling slum products.

- ☆ A four-day Exhibition-cum-Sale “Slum Expo” was conducted from December 15th to 18th, '94 in co-ordination with the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. Here 25 participants who were small entrepreneurs, especially promoted by NGOs, exhibited their products in 45 stalls and had an opportunity of getting a good public exposure. The products included plastic and leather consumer items, handloom fabrics, garments, processed foods, artificial gems and other innovative handicrafts. Apart from attracting many visitors, this exhibition gave the producers an insight into consumer preferences. The social cost benefit of this exhibition was also good and it gave rise to ideas of forming a marketing federation

for further promotion of slum entrepreneurs products on a regular basis. As follow-up action, the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board has identified one NGO to make a survey of the various NGOs/NGO sponsored producers interested in the membership of the federation.

- ☆ DPG sponsored two stalls for Slum Entrepreneurs' Products at other commercial exhibitions, Small Industries Product Promotion Organisation (SIPPO's) Expo and APPA's Expo so that the slum producers can recognise the competition existing in their line of products. Improvement in packaging and presentation of the product were recognised as factors responsible for success. Also customer-contact was developed through the above exhibitions.

Infrastructure Improvement Programme : Poor infrastructure in slums is a major problem affecting the poor, especially women. Since infrastructure upgradation involves huge sums of money, DPG's direct role was limited to a few tasks. Some of the measures include,

- ☆ Building Community Centres in three slums namely Lockma Nagar, Logaiya Maistry Street & Azudhinkhan Street with part contribution from slum residents in the form of labour and material support from DPG. These centres helped DPG to conduct its various programmes and also provided the community with a place to meet and interact with each other.
- ☆ Several representations were made to the MMWSSB in order to enable the Mangollai slum community to access better water supply. After repeated representations a new pipeline was laid to provide water to the slum.
- ☆ Logaiya Maistry Street slum, an unauthorised target slum situated on the Coovum bank did not have electric supply and street lights. DPG staff and the slum representatives requested the Electricity Board for street lights and followed up regularly for a period of 6 months. The street lights were finally approved and installed in the slum.

- ★ Lockma Nagar residents found it inconvenient to reach their slum from the main road due to the absence of a direct approach path. They had to make their way through a slushy, water logged area or take a roundabout route of 2 kms, to reach the slum for the last 40 years. DPG represented the slum problem to the Government Departments but no headway in improvement was made as it was located on land disputed between the Government Departments. DPG decided to motivate the slum community, women and youth, to come forward and work together. The women worked to mobilise cash contributions for the cause while the youth put in their labour and DPG provided the material support and design assistance to create a good negotiable path by channelising the waste water from the slum through a huge pipe. Several loads of building debris were used to strengthen the area after digging and cleaning. The residents worked day and night for a week to complete the path.
- ★ The credit was accessed from the savings and revolving fund by a few residents of Puliurpuram to upgrade their dwellings. Other slum dwellers having land rights in the slum were also made to join the home-link deposit scheme as a prerequisite to a housing programme. An amount of Rs 13,425/- was collected. At the time of withdrawal of the programme, this amount was returned.
- ★ After the creation of a proper approach path at Lockma Nagar, DPG facilitated further infrastructure development through a collaborative programme with the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Chennai Corporation etc. More indepth information is provided in partnership programmes chapter under the Sustainable Chennai project.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES & IMPACT

In the course of implementation of the UDI programme, linkages were created with Government Departments involved in poverty alleviation and rapport with the officials belonging to various institutions and departments like the City Corporation, Slum Clearance Board, CMDA, etc who ensured their co-operation for the programme. After one year of programme initiatives, DPG widened its scope to try and bring the services / programmes of Government to people more effectively by implementing specific programmes in collaboration with the Government

Land Sharing Scheme (LASER) : TNSCB and an other NGO working in Chennai, Project Management Group (PMG) identified six private slums in the city of Chennai. The scheme aimed at convincing the landlords as well as tenants to share the encroached land. The landlords have to agree to giving eighty per cent of their land holding to the community and they can retain twenty per cent. The community which enjoyed the entire area has to adjust by restricting themselves within eighty per cent of the land. DPG has been asked to engage itself in the negotiation process for one slum in Vyasarpadi. The tenants agreed to leave twenty per cent of land to the landlord. But, the landlord did not want to leave his rights over the land. So DPG's efforts did not bear fruit.

Total Literacy Campaign : The Corporation of Chennai launched the Total Literacy Campaign throughout Chennai City through its Arivoli Iyakkam (Total Literacy Movement) and enlisted the co-operation of 10 lead NGOs to ensure wider and deeper community participation and involvement in the programme. DPG was one of the 10 NGOs selected for this programme and was assigned co-ordination of the programme for Zone VI of Chennai Corporation with 18 divisions and 94 slums. The programme was directly implemented through Area Programme Co-ordinator, slum level Convenors and Volunteers. The programme aimed at removing illiteracy in the age group (15-65) and transform the target group into a literate group, who can actively participate and take effective decisions in their day-to-day life

The programme consisted of three phases :

- ★ Awareness Creation, Survey and Identification
- ★ Teaching Phase
- ★ Post-Literacy Phase

The survey revealed 20,600 number of illiterates in Zone VI. Awareness both among slum people and general public was created by the formation of a human chain.

62 literacy centres were identified and started functioning with the help of volunteer-teachers. Autorickshaw publicity was carried out on the main roads and streets of Zone VI. The centres were periodically supervised. Midway through the programme this scheme was abandoned by the Government due to some internal politics.

Population Education : DPG introduced Population Education as a component of Total Literacy Programme in two slums in Zone VI on a pilot basis so as to bring awareness among the public about population explosion and the need to limit the family size. The training and study materials were provided by the State Resource Centre. With the failure of the Total Literacy Campaign, this programme never took off !

Elimination of Child Labour Programme : This programme is being implemented by DPG in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board in Zone VI of Chennai Corporation. The aim of this programme is to eliminate child labour, educate the child and brighten his future prospects by bringing him into the mainstream of life. This programme was conceived as a two-year programme initially starting from 1997. The various stages of the programme included identification of child labourers, their location and place of work, starting a transit school, school enrolment, social mobilisation and income generation to high risk families.

The initial survey in Zone VI areas conducted by DPG engaging 68 trained field staff revealed a total of 1063 child labourers from slum, street children homes, institutions employing child labour and individual cases. UDI then, enrolled 100 children into formal schools after counselling the families and creation of rapport with the child. Thereafter, transit camps were conducted for children below 10 years in co-ordination with the NGOs (New Hope Area

Development & Nesakaram) in Zone VI so as to further motivate the children to join school. Each transit camp accommodated 40 children and provided them with curricular and non-curricular activities such as street plays and talent shows. Two such camps were conducted.

Subsequently, DPG initiated two twelve-month transit schools for children aged above 10 years, one at Gandhi Nagar and the other at Chintadripet catering to a total of 45 children. Midday meals were provided by TNSCB to these children.

The transit school children of DPG participated in a Summer Camp, conducted by TNSCB at Shenoy Nagar Corporation School in the latter part of April '98 so as to provide orientation to them before their enrolment into formal schools.

DPG conducted a 5-day Summer Camp at Scripture Union, Mahabalipuram in the first week of April '98 for 24 Chintadripet transit school children where children were taught arts and crafts under specialised guidance provided by resource personnel from Jawahar Bal Bhavan. After one year, these children were enrolled into (formal) Corporation schools and provided with uniform, books, slippers, school bags and other items. In the academic year 1997-98, DPG through the above programmes enrolled around 225 children into formal school.

Following school enrolment of the transit school children, DPG organised the intensive enrolment programme in Zone VI with TNSCB's and Corporation's sponsorship. 50 street plays were conducted in Zone VI in intensive child labour slums to promote further school enrolment. Following this drive the Corporation records showed a significant increase in enrolment. According to the news paper reports, 10% increase in enrolment was recorded.

The social mobilisation programme included publicity by autorickshaws for five days within Zone VI areas and also hand bills were distributed to motivate parents to enrol their children in schools.

In the current academic year 1998-99, two transit schools have been started for around 40 children by DPG and its associate NGO in Zone VI - New Hope Area Development project at Chintadripet and Gandhi Nagar. Future programmes in this project include

- ★ Starting more transit schools (40 children were covered last year and 100 children will be covered this year on the whole) by collaborating with other NGOs.
- ★ Creating awareness on evils of child labour among employers.
- ★ Establishing child friendly schools.
- ★ Sensitising police officials on this issue.
- ★ Vocational training to mothers of child labourers.

The above programme was supervised by DPG Programme Officer in Zone VI slums with assistance from Programme Co-ordinator and transit school teacher appointed by the TNSCB.

Partnership with UNICEF

UNICEF sponsored a few programmes for the Child Labour Elimination Programme :

Special campaign to discourage bursting of crackers : "Discouraging Bursting of Crackers by Children" was a theme taken up by UNICEF with the support of NGOs because fireworks industries employ child labourers on a large scale all over Tamil Nadu.

DPG created awareness on this issue by preparing slogans made out of sunpac sheets, which can withstand both rain and sun. Posters were printed and displayed at important child labour junctions in Zone VI (94 slums). This campaign was useful to educate general public and in turn seek their assistance to shun this practice and lobby for support for this cause.

Also drawing and elocution competitions for transit school children and Corporation School children in Zone VI were held on the theme of child labour.

Children's Day for transit school children : UNICEF sponsored the "Celebration of the Children's Day for the Transit School Children" in Zone VI numbering 50 children at the School of Social Work. Programmes included quiz competitions and

cultural programme. The transit school children from Zone VI had a good time alongwith the children from other zones. The audience included officials from Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, NGOs involved in child labour elimination and other Government functionaries.

Special Campaign against the practice of child labour : UNICEF has sponsored this campaign against the practice of child labour. DPG conducted the campaign in Division 91 of Zone VI, Chennai, covering 12 slums. The campaign included street play and motivational talk for around 500 strong audience, who largely consisted of slum residents and child labourers. The venue was V.R. Pillai Street which has a large number of child labourers in the area (244).

The outcome of the campaign showed that parents of 30 child labourers got convinced of the drawbacks of sending their children for work.

Alacrity Foundation - Rapid Situation Analysis

On the request of Mr. Tony Mathew, Alacrity Foundation, DPG made a Rapid Situation Analysis (RSA) of Varadarajapuram slum in Chennai city. The field study was undertaken by five social workers for five days under the supervision of two DPG POs. Based on all the discussions, a suggestive plan document was finalised. The tentative plan submitted to the builder focuses on the quality of life led by a majority of the people in the slum with limited infrastructure that needs improvement.

The report recommended initiatives in the area of people's organisation, development of clean and healthy environment and development of skills in the community. Based on DPG's analysis, Alacrity Foundation has submitted a proposal to Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority for improvement of Varadarajapuram slum.

Computer Education Centre : On the advice of ActionAid, DPG initiated the process for setting up one Computer Education Centre for disadvantaged young teenagers from slums studying in one of the Corporation Schools. Tata Infotech agreed to support this venture by providing 10 computers.

DPG alongwith ActionAid decided upon the Corporation School at Shenoy Nagar as the most deserving school with a strength of 2000 girl students. This Computer Centre provides the State of Art Computer Education to young student aspirants from low income groups, who will get a good opportunity to equip themselves with skills as per contemporary demands. The programme was inaugurated by the Mayor of Chennai, Mr. Stalin, in the last week of May '98 and a large number of students are currently being benefited through this Centre every year.

Sustainable Chennai Projects : In collaboration with the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, DPG implemented the "Sustainable Chennai Project". Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority has chalked out definite plans for community based demonstration projects which are to be implemented through NGOs. DPG was invited to take part in this programme and implement it in its target slum Lockma Nagar. In keeping with its basic objective of neighbourhood development, DPG sought to create a better environment for the target slum by developing the basic infrastructure through this project.

The various problems identified which needed rectification are as follows :

- ☆ Irregular and disintegrated roads and inner lanes.
- ☆ Lack of a sewage connection.
- ☆ Soil erosion in a newly constructed 0.2 km. foot path undertaken by DPG with community participation.
- ☆ Water stagnation due to poorly maintained water taps and pipes, coupled with uneven and irregular land topography.
- ☆ Lack of public dustbins for collection of waste.
- ☆ Lack of greenery to offset the atmospheric pollution caused by household activities.
- ☆ Absence of recreation area for children, though there is space and one can be planned.
- ☆ Few units of the community toilet in repair.

The objectives of this programme are :

- ☆ To involve the community in the neighbourhood environment management for sustainability of the programme in the long run.
- ☆ To enhance the infrastructure of the slum through suitable measures i.e. setting right irregular roads and lanes.
- ☆ To prevent deterioration of the existing conditions.
- ☆ To increase the greenery in the slum and provide a more healthy environment.
- ☆ To provide a recreation area for children from the slum.

Upon DPG's representation, a sewerage connection was provided by the Corporation to the entire slum. Several works were undertaken for creating the children's park such as digging, strengthening with several loads of building debris, sand and stones, putting layers of red soil and topping with sand. A fence was built around the park. Inner streets and lanes were levelled and a dustbin to collect the waste was constructed, water taps and pipes were repaired under the SCP programme.

The Corporation heeded the community's representation and laid tar top on the access path to the main road and this helped to prevent the erosion of the path earlier laid by the community on DPG's motivation. The Corporation further installed eight street lights, four along the approach road and another four in the inner streets and lanes.

The community toilets and the bathing and washing cubicles were simultaneously repaired by the Corporation. Hand in hand, DPG also capacitated the slum residents to approach the respective Government Departments to seek redressal for their problems, whenever they arose.

DPG motivated the youth to plant trees in the slum to increase the green cover as there were very few trees within the slums. For completing the various infrastructure works the community

provided their labour with a lot of enthusiasm and spirit. Now they continue their participation by maintaining the assets created by pooling their cash contribution to effect repairs whenever they occur. Now the entire area value has increased dramatically and the residents have started upgrading their individual houses as they no longer fear eviction.

The local MLA provided the play equipment (Slide & Jungle Gym) for the play ground. This play ground was named as DPG Siruvar Poonga. This park was inaugurated by the Mayor in August '98.

Today, Lockma Nagar has got a complete facelift and can no more be called a slum area. The residents perceive that the project activities have paved the way for a decent, healthy and safe environment for all of them. At the individual level, the residents have a good access to the main road and other basic amenities for a decent living. After DPG's interventions they have become more confident of finding solutions to their problems.

This project has been accomplished by converging the inputs available from various partners such as the resource agency ActionAid, the community, the Government Departments such as Chennai Corporation, CMDA, IPP-V project, the other NGOs, the local councillor, the MLA and some private sponsors. DPG has been the link between all these partners and has co-ordinated the programme to provide a better infrastructure, thereby improved health and environment for the community.

3. FINANCING, CO-ORDINATION & CONCLUSION

Financial Aspects

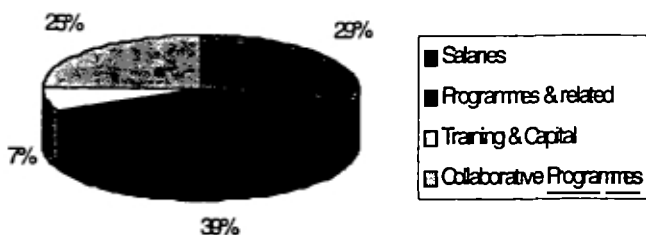
The project started with an initial grant of Rs. 3,61,600/- from ActionAid in 1994 to conduct a feasibility study. On the completion of this study, DPG submitted a five year Development Plan to ActionAid covering 15 slums for a total cost of Rs. 295 lakhs. It was then decided to have this project under a separate Registered Society. But due to various reasons, only one year grant was approved as there was no proper MOU between AA and DPG with regard to the source of funding. While AA was particular about sponsorship the latter was against child sponsorship and applied for community sponsorship. There was also no clear understanding on the registration of UDI as a separate society. Again in 1997, thanks to ActionAid Executive Director's intervention, another year budget was approved and with that DPG continued its activities till Sept. '98. On the whole, DPG has received Rs. 46.59 lakhs from AA towards this project.

Besides this funding, efforts were also made by DPG to mobilise funds from Government Departments, etc. These efforts have been successful to a limited extent. DPG received Rs. 1.40 lakhs from TNSCB and Rs. 1.04 lakhs from MMDA and Rs. 30,400/- from UNICEF. Government Departments have spent Rs.12,47,418/- on their own directly for our target area on collaborative programmes. Apart from this, small contributions from individuals were also mobilised through the efforts of various field staff to conduct certain events at the slums.

A few of the envisaged partnership programmes never saw the light of the day as the Govt. / Private agency did not keep up their commitment regarding the planned programmes. The best example is the Total Literacy Programme. This project was started and then abandoned midway through the programme.

The expenditure profile indicates that 29% was spent for salaries, 39% was spent towards direct programmes, 7% on training and capital and 25% of the total money spent came through collaborators and was spent on specific collaborative programmes.

The pie diagram shows the expenditure on various heads :



Co-ordination of the Project

At the time of starting the project, four Programme Officers (two male & two female) Post-Graduates in Social Sciences joined the project. They were supported by the necessary office staff. First 6-9 months, the staff were mainly involved in slum survey, resource mapping and in narrowing down poor slums. The Project Director monitored and coordinated the activities with the help of the office staff. The DPG Management team also gave the necessary backing and support.

Once the slum selection was completed in 1995, one PO dropped out for health reasons. In her place, a new PO, a Post Graduate in Social Work was recruited and she continued till Oct. '98. At the slum level, for each slum one worker was placed. The project had problems in retaining the first batch of field staff as they did not particularly like working in the slum for long hours. A couple of them who showed some interest demanded good service conditions and once that was not assured they quit. Nevertheless, half a dozen women workers liked the job and continued to work till 1998. From mid '98, the staff were relieved one by one as DPG has no assurance about continued funding. Moreover, DPG felt that it may not be good idea to work in a particular slum for more than 4-5 years.

During the programme intervention phase, the Programme Officers (4) were mainly responsible for the initiation and implementation of programmes in a particular sector. They also tried to establish good linkages with the Government Departments, other agencies and the target group. The field staff interacted with the communities and assisted the POs in the implementation of the programmes. An Office Manager was appointed who dealt with matters relating to personnel administration, their remuneration,

public relations with other agencies and attended to all the enquiries at the office level. The entire team from 1995 to 1998 consisted of 13 staff with Programme Officers (4), Office Manager (1), Field Staff (6), Systems Assistant (1) and an Office Assistant. Another PO left in late '96 after her marriage. Accounts were maintained by DPG on nominal charges. DPG Registered Office Manager gave the necessary Administration support.

The part-time DPG Office Documentation Assistant documented the various programmes on a regular basis and also prepared periodic progress reports. Also monthly task sheets provided the progress of the activities in each slum. Regular monthly meetings of the staff were held to assess their work and their discussions were also minuted. An Annual Report was also prepared and the same was shared with other agencies, many from partnership agencies also visited the office and field. Internal auditors from AA visited the office thrice (1994, 1996 & 1998) and verified the accounts. The TNSCB audit team and also CMDA audit officials visited the office and field to verify the progress of the work supported by them.

Training & Placement : All the staff were exposed to an initial Orientation Programme so as to orient them to the programme and its requirements. The programme staff were periodically guided by consultants on concept clarity and effective programme interventions. With the gradual progress in interventions the staff were made to undergo (both POs, Field Staff, Systems Assistant) relevant training conducted by Government and Non-Government agencies relating to Community Organization & Development, Habitat, Non-Formal Education, Environment, Training to Detect Cataract, AIDS Awareness, Transit School Formation, Savings & Micro Credit and many other training courses so as to upgrade their knowledge and increase their work efficiency.

Placement Services : The project provided field placement services for students of Social Work from Stella Maris College and also accommodated two students from Germany through the AIESEC's Student Exchange Programme for two months. The trainees were assisted in organizing several programmes relating to education, health awareness and environment awareness in the community. At the end of the training, they submitted reports and maps of their slum. Each placement term was for three months

duration In the entire project period, a total of 6 Social Work students and 2 students from abroad were placed and trained in DPG's slums At the completion of training, a certificate was issued regarding their participation in the project activities.

Conclusion

The Urban Development Initiatives programme addressed the poor communities especially living in the slums of Chennai city. In 1994, this programme initially made a feasibility study in 500 slums of Chennai city, to learn the problems of the poor and the services available to them from various avenues such as NGOs/Govt. On the basis of the survey, DPG collected first hand information about the origin of various slums, their location and infrastructure available, population size, socio-economic conditions and their various problems. This study basically helped the core staff to have a macro level perception of the problems of the slum dwellers and equipped them to plan suitable interventions for their target group

The data was utilized to broadly select a few slums based on least developed infrastructure, those falling in very poor category (refer to Criteria for Selection of Poor in the Chapter "Programme Interventions and Impact)

Keeping in mind the situation of the poor in these slums the scope for programme implementation was further evaluated on the basis of certain criteria developed by DPG (refer Criteria for slum selection in the Chapter Programme Interventions and Impact) so as to have smooth implemenation of the project. Thereafter slums were selected and after the implementation started, a few were dropped for non co-operation from the community's end.

Thereafter programmes were formulated based on the above data Taking into account, the common features of all the slums, entry level programmes were initiated and thereafter specific programmes for individual slums were planned

In the direct programmes implemented by DPG, education for the school going children by creating a conducive atmosphere for the children to get together and study under supervision was a positive contribution of the programme according to the consultant R Rukman (MIDS) and was also appreciated by the parents, most of whom are illiterate.

The education programme was discontinued in three slums, Mangollai, Puliurpuram and Lockam Nagar by 1998 for non-availability of space for a centre and therefore the coverage of the education programme got considerably reduced over a period of time.

Regarding the coverage of the Savings and Credit programme, it was started in all the slums but when it comes to coverage of the target slum population, it is highly variant across the slums. In Puliurpuram, Lockma Nagar and Labour Lane, the coverage is about one third of the eligible women, while in the rest, it is much higher with 92% of women being covered in Mangollai, followed by Logaiya Maistry (74%) and Azudhinkhan Street (68%) . The relationship between employment, income and savings may be drawn here as it is evident that in Mangollai, a larger proportion of residents have permanent employment whereas in the other slums they have employment on a day-to-day basis and hence the repercussions such as lack of sufficient employment, seasonal variation and inability to save may be reasons for low success rate of the programme in them.

Also another point which corroborates this is that a large percentage of loans, two-thirds i.e, 62.5% were used for consumption-related purposes and 13.3% to repay other loans, 17.3% to start a business and 7.2% to keep up social obligation. Even with all these reasons, the default rate is negligible.

DPG perceived the low levels of skills among slum dwellers which lead to irregular employment. At the same time, it also realized that even those who earn regularly do not value thrift and do not have proper priorities in spending money and this is more so with the men folk who squander it on drinks, women and films.

DPG's efforts through providing opportunities for skills upgradation were not taken up with enthusiasm by youth and they expected a lot of stipend, T.A. and other benefits. Only tailoring and tye & dye programmes had takers among women. "DPG's efforts towards enhancing the income of families did not fare well and did not have broad coverage" according to the consultant R. Rukmani.

Under the Income Generation Programme, the loans on a low interest basis have helped to mitigate the financial problems encountered in their business and the limited coverage of the

scheme i.e., 37 loans have not helped to improve the socio-economic status of a large number of families. Since year-to-year planning was done, DPG could not embark on a major comprehensive plan for each individual slum. Especially regarding the IGP programme, DPG did not take the advantage of the opportunities in the specific slum surroundings to plan for concrete programmes with year-to-year planning and the few initiatives such as a flower business on a co-operative basis, planned in Mangollai slum did not take off.

Apart from the above three programmes implemented in all the slums DPG also implemented slum specific programmes as per the need. The initiative to lay the road at Lockma Nagar with community's participation and help in converting the slushy cesspit into a proper approach road was lauded by the consultants.

The Slum Improvement Council at Azudhinkhan with the garbage collection and disposal system in place with the help of load tricycle was mentioned as practical and beneficial to the slum dwellers by both the consultants.

The objective of better health and sanitation through improvement of awareness have provided a positive starting point as participatory evaluation of the people showed an improvement in the awareness of people with regard to causative factors for various diseases (spread of AIDS and other diseases), the importance of immunization for children and general rearing practices.

The various national events and important days commemorated through sports events and cultural programmes in various slums have brought DPG closer to the slum people.

The provision of cleaning equipment in two slums, costume for a street play troupe, T-shirts for cricket team, play equipment such as cricket bat, ball, stumps and books for learning centre children were encouraging gestures of DPG and showed their positive attitude for the above activities.

Capacitation of slum people and creation of linkages with the various Departments of Government such as E.B., the Corporation, Taluk Office, Metro Water have served to make slum people independent and confident of approaching the appropriate authority to lodge their complaint and following it up so as to set right the situation.

In Lockma Nagar, complaints regarding street lights have been set right by the efforts of the slum representatives. Individuals acquire birth/death certificates and also widow/old age pensions and ration cards more confidently and on their own.

It was suggested that DPG should make a comprehensive plan for each slum taking into account the available resources (human/material of slum) and relate them to the opportunities in the surrounding areas so as to exploit the potentialities to the maximum. Such a task cannot be achieved effectively when planning is done on a year-to-year basis.

Last but not the least, it may be remembered that a majority of slum dwellers are fatalistic, suspicious, lack motivation, have internal politics and high expectations of free service from others (both Govt. & NGOs). Therefore it is not an easy task to win their rapport and effectively change their ways and practices for better. It requires time, money and dedicated efforts on a continuous basis for 4-5 years to make a dent in their thinking first and way of life next.

DPG's field work in slums, the management systems and the reporting procedure were highly appreciated by the collaborative Government Departments. Occasionally, the press also gave some coverage for the work done. The work at Chennai slums also rekindled the spirit of one of the senior POs who in-turn took up similar work in another city, Tiruchirapalli. And subsequently DPG entered into a partnership with Voluntary Health Services, Chennai for the AIDS prevention and control project in 30 slums of Tiruchirapalli. Though the chennai project activities were withdrawn from all slums, in Nov. 1998, DPG on the request of slum dwellers of Nallan Street in Chennai, placed one worker to conduct the evening class. DPG has also started a self - help group in this slum. This worker's salary is paid from DPG's own fund. DPG has facilitated the formation of two savings & Credit Groups, one at Mangollai and the other at Puliyurpuram, after the withdrawal of the project, which shows the acceptance of this programme with the community. The office bearers from slum who had previous experience in managing the operations, have taken up the responsibility again.

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5. APPENDIX

Urbanisation

Urban centres all over the world have witnessed a tremendous growth especially in the last two decades. Twelve out of fifteen cities in the world with more than ten million people are located in the developing countries. Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Shanghai and Mumbai - each has around 16 million people - more than twice the population of London. Tokyo, the most built-up region in the world has 27 million people. Like in most developing countries, the rapid industrialization and economic growth in the urban centres create job openings in various sectors and this has led to the process of the urbanization in India. According to 1991 Census, approximately 25% of the total population of India is urban, which amounts to around 217 million people.

Increasing concentrations of the urban population in bigger cities have not only posed problems of pollution, congestion and crime but have also led to severe pressure on basic amenities, thereby, causing a decline in living standards of the city dwellers, especially in the poor. The rapid urban growth rate has resulted in acute deficiency in and a high demand for land and other basic requirements resulting in unemployment, competition, unrest and crime in the urban scene. These problems are bound to become more acute by the end of the century and are likely to create chaos and confusion and perhaps cause despair everywhere.

It is not easy to define an "urban society" owing to its multi-dimensional structure : demographic, social, economic, physical, geographical, political and administrative aspects. The urban society consists of a large concentration of population in a relatively limited geographical area activated by the production and the distribution of various kinds of goods and services, involving a high degree of specialization and complex political and social organization.

By definition, an urban settlement should have :

- ☆ A minimum population of 5000,
- ☆ 75 per cent of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural activities,
- ☆ A density of atleast 1000 persons per sq. mile and
- ☆ Distinct urban characteristics (e.g. industrial areas, areas of tourist interest, heterogeneity in life styles, etc.)

The characteristic features like the density of population, multiple occupational skills and practices, availability of infrastructure facilities and non-farm commercial activities are the common indicators to identify an area as an urban habitat. The indicators would include :

- ☆ Concentration of people at higher population density
- ☆ The migrant population from rural to urban
- ☆ Occupational shift from agricultural to commercial, industrial and non-farm activities.
- ☆ Shift of land-use from agriculture to non-agriculture.

Urbanization Trends in India .

Abundant historical evidence is available to show that urban centres existed as early as 2500 - 1500 BC. Though the ancient Hindu cities Mohenjodharo and Harappa have irrevocably gone out of existence, we still find relics of the past in some parts of the country. During the Muslim period, most of the ancient cities fell: some underwent changes and only a few were able to preserve their traditional nature and some new cities also took shape. In the 18th century, European colonial rule had brought about sweeping economic and political changes which affected the process and growth of urbanization considerably and led to the establishment of new commercial and administrative cities. New cities such as Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai rose mainly as centres of production, export and import of goods and trade.

In the post - 1950's a number of cities have come up mainly because of industrial development. Industrialization, therefore, induces the process of urbanization. Again, in 1956, the

reorganization of States and the grant of Statehood to a number of centrally administered territories led to the creation of new cities such as Chandigarh and Gandhi Nagar or the rise in status of district headquarters to that of State capitals such as Kohima, Guwahati, etc.

The two major factors, in-migration and natural increase of population are held responsible for the growth of population in urban centres. Natural increase is a common phenomenon which accelerates the growth of population in both rural and urban areas. Migration is a major cause for the increase in the urban population as more employment opportunities encourage these migrants to settle in urban centres due to job opportunities rather than rural areas. Two factors - push factors and pull factors induce the process of in-migration. Unemployment, failure of monsoon resulting in low productivity, group conflicts and the oppressive landlords push out the rural population from their own villages in search of work in the urban areas. On the other hand, increasing employment opportunities, availability of infra-structural facilities, a modern way of life, health and educational facilities pull the rural crowd in, alluring them to enjoy a whole gamut of activities of the urban life.

Migration is viewed as the root cause of the process of urbanization by which urban centres continue to grow. Therefore urbanization stops when migration to urban centres stops. The migration scheme has four zones: two migration source areas, and two migration - receiving areas: two less developed and two more developed. The four zones are :

- ★ Distressed areas comprising small villages with no infrastructure and limited natural resource endowment and hence less developed.
- ★ Areas with resource potential and with some development but with limited infrastructure and with larger villages.
- ★ More developed, but with low order infrastructure and small towns.
- ★ Highly developed and resource rich areas with higher order infrastructure. This is the zone of the maximum pull from all the other three zones.

Table 1
Migration for Employment as Percentage of Total Decadal (1971-81) Migration :
Million Plus Cities

City	Rural-to-Urban Stream (%)				Urban-to-Urban Stream (%)			
	Intra +		Inter State		Intra State		Inter State	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Bombay	65.14	5.89	62.89	5.29	51.11	6.97	43.93	6.81
Calcutta UA	53.12	8.02	43.03	8.45	38.11	5.63	27.44	5.65
Delhi UA	60.07	6.67	61.78	4.98	47.51	5.83	52.98	4.91
Madras UA	52.70	5.66	52.64	5.79	41.97	6.18	41.05	6.31
Ahmedabad UA	52.47	6.38	46.33	5.94	41.11	6.39	36.93	5.69
Bangalore UA	51.96	7.50	48.99	6.73	49.17	8.36	66.80	8.12
Hyderabad UA	44.91	6.83	45.93	6.40	47.17	6.08	43.93	6.52
Kanpur UA	46.13	3.50	47.00	3.30	40.73	3.08	40.59	3.01
Lucknow UA	47.65	6.50	46.71	5.47	39.88	6.63	39.45	5.38
Jaipur UA	56.26	5.72	54.35	5.09	44.63	5.69	40.76	4.84
Nagpur UA	29.36	2.89	31.01	2.71	35.90	5.07	35.47	4.96
Pune UA	48.08	3.49	46.50	3.15	40.81	4.23	38.90	3.86

Source : Census of India, 1981, Migration Tables, D-3

Table 2 shows the migration rates defined as the gross decadal inflow of population as a percentage of total urban population. The rural to urban rates are mostly higher than their urban to urban counterparts.

An examination of the reasons for migration shows that among the rural male migrants, economic factors such as employment account for around 50 per cent. Among the female this factor accounts for less than 10 percent as shown in Table-1.

Table 2

Gross Decadal (1971-81) Inflow of Population as percentage of Total City Population (1981) : Million Plus

City	Rural-to-Urban Stream (%)			Urban-to-Urban Stream (%)		
	Intra	Inter	Person	Intra	Inter	Person
	+ Male	State Female		+ Male	State Female	
Bombay	14.38	12.02	13.35	5.11	6.09	5.54
Calcutta UA	5.18	4.75	4.99	2.35	2.78	2.53
Delhi UA	12.16	9.53	10.98	8.68	10.00	9.38
Madras UA	5.64	5.93	5.78	9.49	10.57	9.71
Ahmedabad UA	8.16	8.25	8.20	4.86	6.36	5.56
Bangalore UA	8.50	7.78	8.16	8.93	9.32	9.11
Hyderabad UA	5.00	4.90	4.95	4.60	4.76	4.70
Kanpur UA	6.48	6.28	6.37	3.61	4.81	4.17
Lucknow UA	6.34	5.37	5.90	5.91	7.11	6.46
Jaipur UA	7.67	6.56	7.16	8.01	9.13	8.58
Nagpur UA	7.98	8.57	8.26	5.61	6.90	6.19
Pune UA	11.20	11.35	11.35	9.43	10.74	10.10

Source : Census of India, 1981, Migration Tables, D-2

The total urban population in 1951, five years after the partition of the country, was reported to be about 60 million (18% of the total population), 80 million in 1961, 108 million in 1971, 160 million in 1981 and 200 million - plus in 1991 constituting about 25% of the total population. The year-wise increase in million plus cities is provided in Table 3.

Table 3

Growth of 100,000 - Plus Cities - India, 1990-91				
Year	No.	Population (millions)	Percentage of Total Urban Population	Percentage of Total Population
1901	24	6.5	23.0	2.7
1911	23	6.9	24.2	2.7
1921	28	7.9	25.3	3.2
1931	31	9.6	27.4	3.4
1941	46	15.7	36.0	5.0
1951	71	25.8	41.7	7.2
1961	109	36.0	48.4	8.3
1971	142	57.0	52.4	10.0
1981	215	95.1	60.0	14.0
1991	300	139.7	65.0	16.0

Note: Figures have been rounded off

Source : 1991 Census of India

Among these cities, at least 22 cities have a population of more than one million. Table 4 shows the growth of cities with 100 thousand-plus population from 1901 to 1991.

Table 4

Population Growth in Ten Largest Cities - Indian 1901-91								
City	Population in Millions							
	1901	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991
Calcutta	1.5	2.0	3.5	4.6	5.5	7.0	9.1	10.9
Bombay	0.8	1.3	1.7	2.8	4.1	6.0	8.2	12.6
Delhi	0.2	0.4	0.7	1.4	2.3	3.6	5.1	8.5
Madras	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.4	1.7	2.5	4.2	5.4
Bangalore	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.9	1.6	2.9	4.2
Ahmedabad	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.8	1.5	1.6	2.5	3.2
Hyderabad	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.8	1.2	1.8	2.5	4.3
Kanpur	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.7	2.5
Poona	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.7	2.5
Lucknow	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.7

Note Figures have been rounded off For Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and Madras Metropolitan population is indicated Other cities which exceeded one million population are Bhopal, Coimbatore, Indore, Jaipur, Kochi, Ludhiana, Madurai, Patna, Surat, Vadodara, Varanasi, Visakapatnam - Source - 1991 Census of India

The notable feature of urban development has been the rapid growth of cities exceeding 100,000 population. In 1951, there were 71 such cities with a total population of 26 million people. In 1961, the number of cases increased to 109 with a population of 36 million: in 1971 the number was 142 which in 1981 increased to 215 with a population of almost 100 million forming about 60 percent of all the urban population and 14 per cent of the total population of the country. In 1991, cities with a population of 100,000 are about 300.

Table 5 shows the year-wise growth in total general population, the total urban population and urban population as percentage of total population.

Table 5

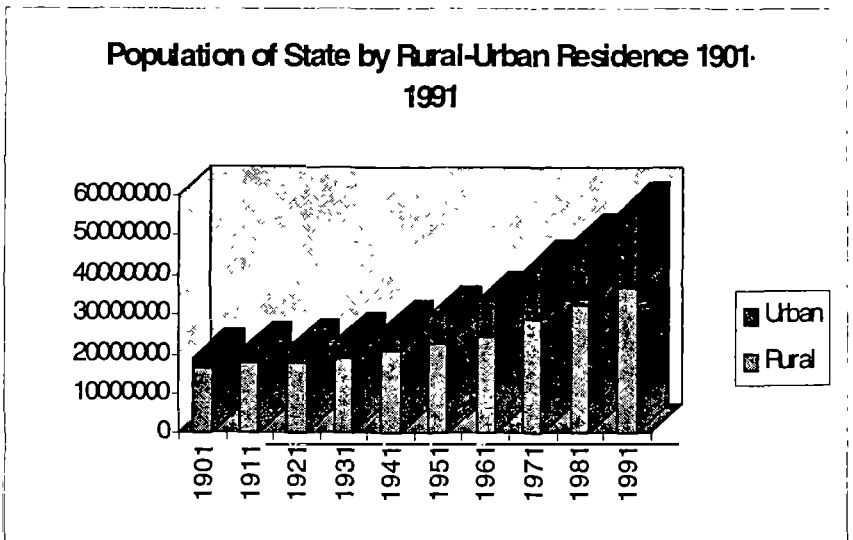
Growth of Urban Population, India - 1901-91			
Census Year	General Population (millions)	Total Urban Population (millions)	Urban Population as percentage of Total Population
1901	235.5	25.7	10.9
1911	249.0	26.3	10.3
1921	248.1	28.2	11.2
1931	275.5	33.4	12.0
1941	314.8	43.8	13.9
1951	356.9	61.9	17.3
1961	436.5	79.2	17.9
1971	547.0	108.8	19.8
1981	685.1	159.7	23.2
1991	846.3	211.5	25.0

Note : Figures have been rounded off All related to present territory of India (excluding Jammu and Kashmir) By 1995, the total population was reported to be about 930 millions, estimated urban population of about 250 millions constituting about 27 per cent Since the 1961 census, definition of urban has been more rigorous than the definition adopted in earlier census Source. 1991 Census of India.

It may be predicted that the present urban population of the country (211.5 million : 25% -1991 census) despite a retarding trend of growth in the coming decades, would be doubled by the year 2000 and almost trebled by 2010. The figure may grow a little more than three and a half times by 2020. These future estimates would correspond to 34.20 percent urban population in 2000 and 41.90 percent in 2010 and 49.80 percent in 2020 Thus, India is estimated to show its half of the total population as urban in the coming 40 years.

Urbanization in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has a population of 55,858,946 according to the 1991 census. It is the sixth largest State in India with an area of 130058 sq. kms, and a State ranking only second in the Indian urban hierarchy. Tamil Nadu has 34.15 per cent urbanization against the national average of 25.7 due to the presence of major cities such as Chennai, one of the four metropolises in India, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchy and others. Tamil Nadu is one among the few States in India with a 30 plus urbanization which shows its advancement in industrial development, trade and other aspects which add to urban growth.



The above graph shows the year-wise increase in urban and rural population.

Table 6

Per cent Decadal Variation of Population, 1901-11 to 1981-91									
Total /Rural/Urban	Census					Decades			
	1901-11	1911-21	1921-31	1931-41	1941-51	1951-61	1961-71	1971-81	1981-91
Urban	+8.57	+3.47	+8.52	+11.91	+14.66	+11.85	+22.30	+17.50	+15.39
Rural	+7.42	+2.52	+5.72	+9.63	+8.02	+8.39	+16.35	+12.95	+13.33
Urban	+15.57	+8.86	+23.40	+22.30	+41.75	+22.59	+38.64	+27.98	+19.59

From Table 6, it is obvious that even the decadal variation of population in the urban areas is more significant in each decade than the rural areas. The wide variation in the increase of urban population in the post-Independence period after 1961 may be attributed to the second Five Year Plan which provided for more industries and the period is marked for entrepreneurs becoming industry-conscious and thereby setting in motion the urbanization process.

Urbanization Trends in Chennai City

Chennai, is the capital city of Tamil Nadu located in the extreme of South-West Indian peninsula. It was founded in 1639 by the East India Company, a British trading enterprise, who opened a post at the fishing village of Chennappa patnam, after the name of the local ruler, which is now called Chennai. The City came into being during the British rule for a strategic necessity. The East India Company had its Southern Headquarters at Fort St. George in Chennai. By the mid-eighteenth century, Chennai, also known as Madras, had acquired the status of the largest city in Southern India, the political capital of the region and a major commercial and trading centre. The port of Madras brought the city on the trade map. This status contributed to the strengthening of the connectivity of Chennai with the rest of the country. All military roads, the trunk roads and major railway lines in India were connected to the City. In the post-Independence era (1947 onwards) this infrastructure helped the City to grow into one of the largest manufacturing centres.

The total area of the City is 174 sq kms. The total population according to 1991 census is 38,41,396 persons comprising 19,86,278

males and 18,55,118 females. A brief analysis of population increase from 1901 - 1991 shows that the City experienced an enormous population growth during the decade ending 1951 with as much as 55.3% immigration. The increase thereafter was comparatively less. Migrants from drought prone rural areas, and other smaller towns along with migrants from the surrounding States were attracted to the capital due to its urbanization and opportunities for finding a livelihood

Table 7 shows the decennial increase in population from 1901 to 1981 in the City of Chennai.

Table 7

Decennial Population Increase 1901 - 1981 of Chennai City

Period	Natural Increase in %	Migration in %
1901 - 1911	5.4	7.2
1911 - 1921	4.3	5.9
1921 - 1931	0.3	22.5
1931 - 1941	6.1	29.1
1941 - 1951	6.5	55.3
1951 - 1961	16.3	5.5
1961 - 1971	19.2	27.9
1971 - 1981	16.4	10.5

Source : Eric augment, Housing for the Poor in Madras, University of Amsterdam, P.26

Situation Analysis of poverty in Chennai City

The urban poor roughly constitute one third of the total population in Chennai i.e. more than 14 lakhs out of the total population of 38,77,001 (1991 census). The population of Chennai has increased over the last century from 491 thousands in 1891 to 3877 thousands in 1991 and hence among the urban poor, slum dwellers form the single largest majority. Urban poverty is more revealing because of squatter settlements, poor infrastructure facilities and poor sanitation, congestion i.e. the physical characteristics alone are obvious features of slum settlements. The major cause for the growth of slums has been the phenomenon of rapid urbanization and influx of migrants from the rural areas in their quest for a living. A majority of them land in slum settlements.

The number of slums in Chennai were 1470 in 1994 according to the Corporation and TNSCB records.

Economy

Employment in informal sector has gradually assumed primacy with reduced employment in the organized sector. It has increased from 54.0 percent to 60.6 percent between 1971 and 1993, and there has been a clear shift from manufacturing to service activities, a trend opposite to that of the formal sector. Over one-half of women workers are engaged in the informal sector. There is a high income disparity in Chennai; the income of the 1st quintile is only 12 per cent of that of the 5th quintile. The City product per person is \$ 203.07, the lowest among the mega cities in India. The median household income is \$ 771.78.

Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Chennai, has conducted a survey (1991) which clearly shows that the majority of the slum dwellers are helpers/semi-skilled workers engaged in the manufacturing process and construction works as shown in Table-8.

Table - 8

Category	Percentage of representation
Electricity, gas, water, sanitary service	1.8%
Transport, storage, communication	8.3%
Agriculture cutting, forestry and fishing	6.1%
Trade and Commerce	12.5%
Manufacturing Process (Factory Workers)	16.3%
Construction	18.5%
Other Services	36.5%

Carpenters, centering workers, plumbers, painters, electricians, bricklayers, masons and other construction workers are the major occupants in the slums. A finding of the Development Promotion Group's feasibility study (1994) in Chennai has shown that though

these slum people belong to different occupational groups, they fall into the same economic category.

Poor households send their women folk to work in various low productive activities as a part of their survival strategy as they do in the case of children.

Generally, the female population do not have enough representation in all the occupations. There are a few specific occupations which require women in large numbers and they are casual labour, domestic work, assistance in masonry, etc. While at home, women are involved in secondary occupations like garland making and beedi rolling. A few women have tiffin centres in the slum itself. In each of the slums, at least 3 to 4 women are engaged in selling snacks which cater to the needs of the other residents of the slum.

Besides, the petty business (which comes under the 'other services' in the Table-8) attracts a few of the urban poor, as it makes them self-employed. The major group among these are roadside vendors those who sell food, vegetables, tender-coconuts, fruits, flowers, dress-materials, plastic items, utensils and other miscellaneous commodities. These people earn reasonable incomes but they depend upon the private financiers for their business investment. Most of their income goes towards servicing the loan. The rate of interest to these private loans is much higher than the market rate. The self-employed urban poor have to pay the interest out of this earning. Moreover, the local municipal administration considers their place of business an 'encroachment' in most of the places and so they often conduct their business under the threat of police eviction.

Social Development

Income-wise poverty level is 18.5 per cent. The women are worst hit among the poor; the gravity of it is to some extent reflected in the declining sex ratio. Other social conditions are reflected by indicators for crime such as murder rate (0.02) and theft rate (0.68 per 1000 population). Chennai records for crime rates are better than other mega cities of India.

Urban Infrastructure

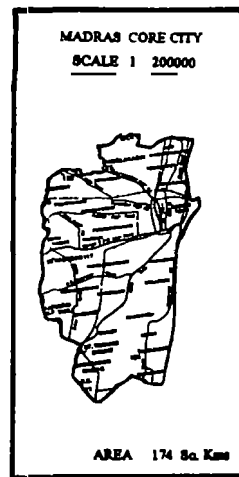
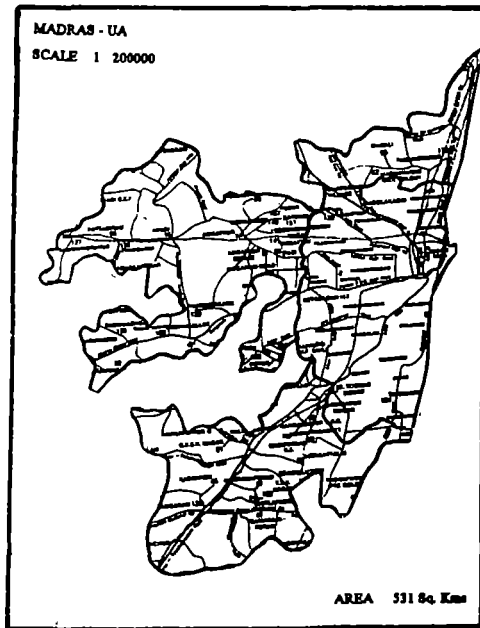
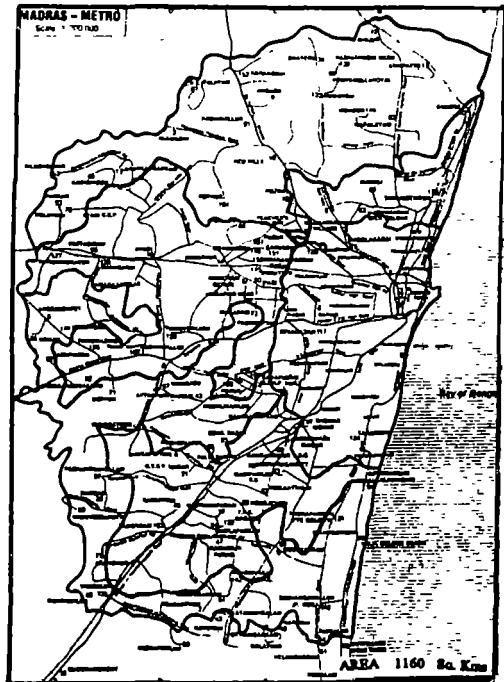
Three-fourths of slum population depends upon public taps/hand pumps for drinking water but the majority of them are reported to remain out of order. Water from the wells is often saline and, therefore not usable for drinking purpose. Sewerage connections are available to 37.2 per cent of households. Dry and bucket type latrines are common in many areas in the slums, public latrines are available to only one-third of the settlements; open defecation is common in these areas. The drainage system is generally adequate but maintenance is poor. In slum areas, 98 per cent of households do not have the facility of underground drainage. Electricity is available to only four-fifths of households.

Environmental Management

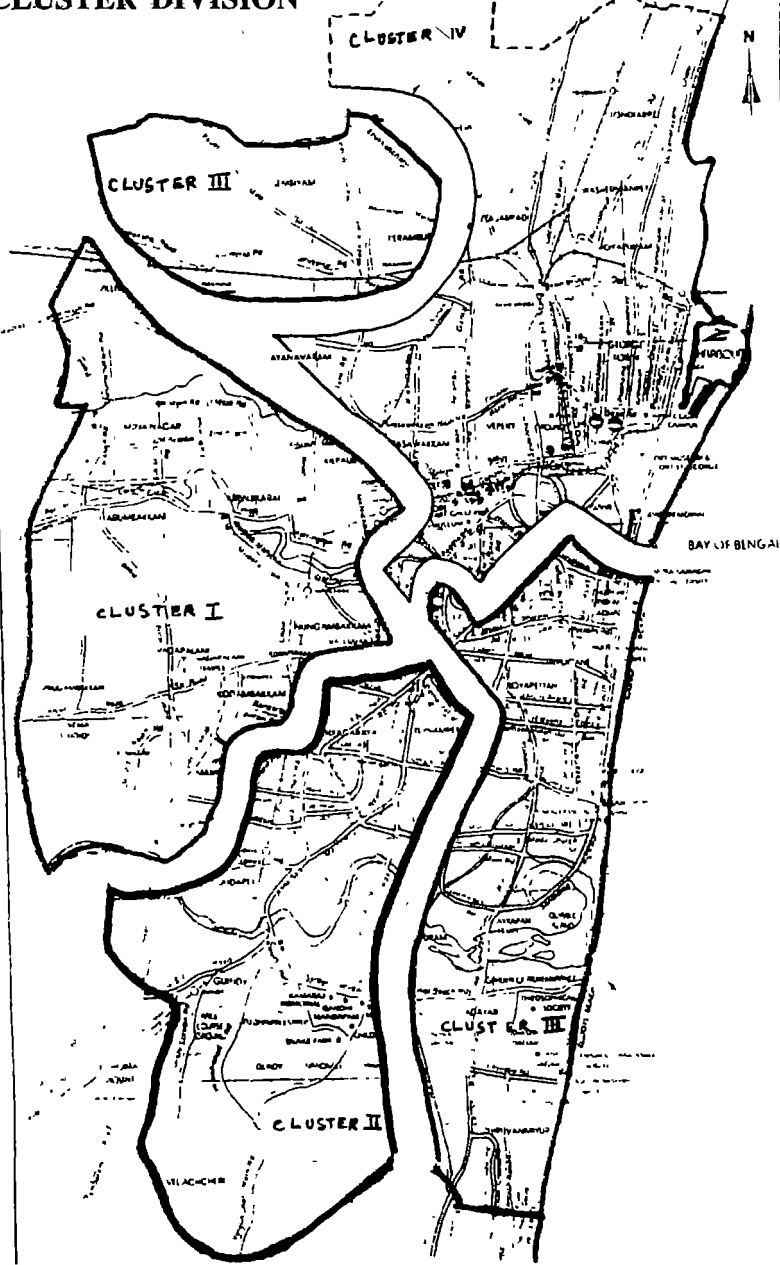
About 90.0 percent of solid waste generated (0.289 tonnes per capita per annum) is collected. However, frequency of collection varies for different localities and depends upon the socio-economic status of the localities and slums get sidelined during the process of public collection of garbage.

Natural and Human-Made Disasters

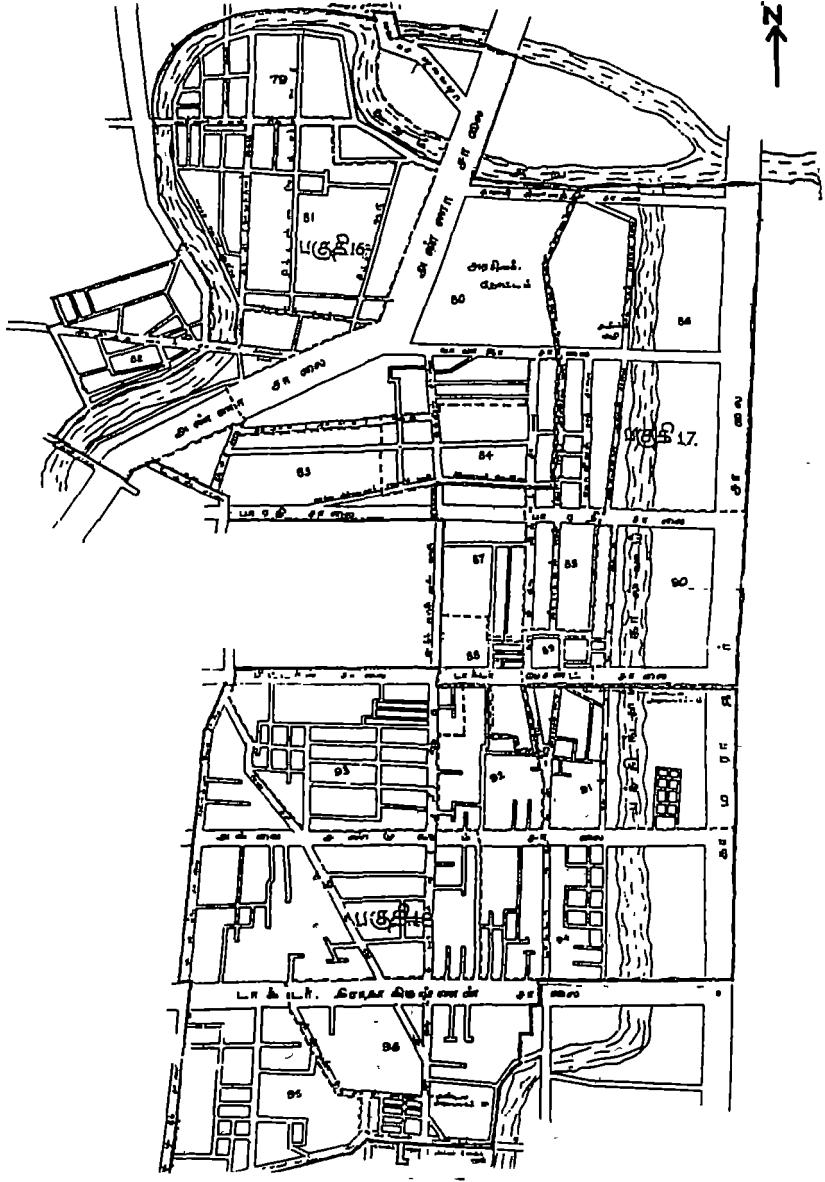
The loss of housing stock due to fire over the last 20 years has been 15.3 per cent per 1000 housing stock. About 98 per cent of these houses were huts, belonging to the poorer sections of the population. Frequent loss of shelter along the sea coast due to cyclone, is also a common feature but official data are not available to indicate the extent of actual loss. The fishing communities do not improve the quality of houses due to this factor. Moreover, the informal sector houses are not insured. The houses of the people are extremely small like pigeon holes measuring on an average 2.6 sq. mtrs.



MADRAS COURSE CITY MAP CLUSTER DIVISION

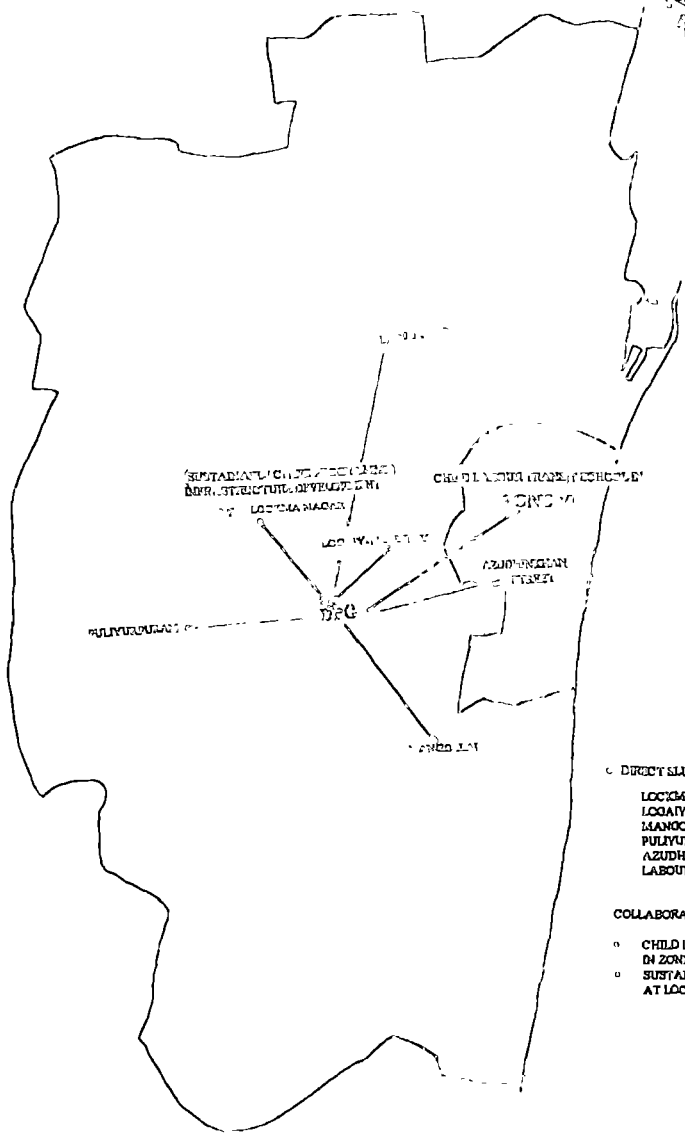


MADRAS CORPORATION ZONAL DIVISION (ZONE VI)



DPC PROJECT AREAS AND CENNA

22



C. DIRECT SLUM PROGRAMME IN

- LOCKMA NAGAR,
- LOCATYA BASTRY STREET
- MANGOLLAJ
- PULYURPURAM
- AZUDHINKHAN STREET
- LABOUR LANE

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMES

- o CHILD LABOUR TRANSIT SCHOOL IN ZONE VI AREAS
- o SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAMME AT LOCKMA NAGAR

Residents and NGOs convert cesspit into footpath



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MADRAS, Sept 18- Residents of Lockma Nagar near Secretariat Colony and Development Promotion Group are now in the process of converting a cesspit (which had been posing an environmental threat for the past 40 years) into a clean footpath.

In a show of unity, the residents, including women, armed with crowbars and shovels, are laying the footpath. Even aged women are seen lending their mite for the job and the residents are working hours together everyday with enthusiasm for the past several days.

Thanks to the semi-finished footpath measuring about 100 metres, the 279 families residing in Lockma Nagar now need not trek about one km to reach Medavakkam Tank Road.

DPO project director Bhakther Salomon said that the residents were frustrated after their representati-

ons to the authorities failed. This was because it was not clear whether the land belonged to the Corporation or Metrowater. "We motivated the residents to coem together. The residents responded positively and the DPG and the local residents are sharing the cost of the footpath on an equal basis. For a start, we filled the cesspit with 35 loads of debris and now the residents are filling it with their share of 35 loads. The footpath work started about 15 days ago and is nearly complete. We have also imparted training and created an awareness about a healthy environment among the residents" he said.

The residents chorused that they were happy to set right their surroundings. They said that if they got some more financial assistance, they would convert the footpath into a broader road to facilitate the movement of autos so that they could transport sick persons.

மாலை மலர்
15 ஆகஸ்ட் 1996

குழந்தைகள் ஓவிய போட்டி

சென்னை. ஆக. 15—
முன்னேற்ற வளர்ச்சி குழு
எனனும் தன்னார்வ அமைப்பு
சென்னை மற்றும் புறநகர் பகுதி
களில் குடிசை வாழ் மக்களின்
மேம்பாட்டிற்காக பாடுபட்டு
வருகிறது.

இந்த அமைப்பின் சார்பில்
குடிசைப் பகுதிகளில் வசிக்கும்
சிறுவர், சிறுமிகளின் ஓவியத்
திறனை வளர்க்க ஓவிய
போட்டி நடத்தப்பட்டது.
சென்னையில் நடந்த இந்தப்
போட்டியில் மயிலாப்பூர்,
கோடம்பாக்கம், சேத்துப்பட்டு,
கீழ்ப்பாக்கம், திருவல்லிக்கேணி,
புதுவண்ணாரப்பேட்டை ஆகிய
பகுதிகளில் உள்ள குடிசைப்
பகுதியை சேர்ந்த சிறுவர்,
சிறுமிகள் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

இதற்கான ஏற்பாடுகளை
இந்த அமைப்பை சேர்ந்த பக்
தர் சாலமோன செய்திருந்தார்.

தினமணி
7 டிசம்பர் 1997

குழந்தைத் தொழிலாளர் கலைப் பயிற்சி

சென்னை, டி.ச. 7—
குழந்தைத் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு
முன்னேற்ற வளர்ச்சிக் குழுவின்
சார்பாகக் கலைப் பயிற்சி அளிக்க
கப்படுகிறது.

சென்னை அரசினர் தோட்
டத்திலுள்ள ஜவஹர் சிறுவர்
இல்லத்தில் பயிற்சி முகாமை
சனிக்கிழமை பள்ளிக் கல்வி
இணை இயக்குனர் பெ. பெரு
மாள்சாமி தொடங்கி வைத்தார்.

முதல் கட்டமாக 175 குழந்
தைத் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு நட
னம், பாட்டு, இசை மற்றும்
காராதே பயிற்சி அளிக்கப்படு
கிறது.

கலைப் பண்பாட்டு உதவி
இயக்குனர் வ. ஜெயபால் வர
வேற்றார். முன்னேற்ற வளர்ச்
சிக் குழுவின் திட்ட அலுவலர்
விஜயக்குமார், கண்காணிப்பா
ளர் சு. தங்கநாயகம் ஆகியோர்
வாழ்த்திப் பேசினர். திட்ட
அலுவலர் ந. ரோசி நன்றி கூறி
னார்.

சிறு சேமிப்புக்கு நடிகர் நாசர் யோசனை

சென்னை, செப்.13-
மற்றவர்கள் பெருமைப்பட
கூடிய வகையில் வாழ்கையை
உயர்த்திக் கொள்ள சிறுசே
மிப்பில் பெண்கள் அதிக கவ
னம் செலுத்த வேண்டும்
என்று நடிகா நாசா கேட்டுக்
கொண்டுள்ளார்

முன்னேற்ற வளாச்சிக் குழு
சார்பில் மகளிர் சிறுசேமிப்பு
விழிப்புணர்வு விழா
சென்னை கோடம்பாக்கம்
புலியூர் புரத்தில உள்ள குகை
தெருவில் நேற்று மாலை
நடைபெற்றது.

விழாவிற்கு முன்னேற்ற
வளாச்சிக் குழு மேலாளர்
சுலோச்சனா சாலமன்
தலைமை தாங்கினார் விழா
வில் திரைப்பட நடிகா நாசா
கலந்து கொண்டு பேசியதா
வது

ஆண்கள்

ஊதாரித்தனமாக

செலவு செய்கிறார்கள்

சிறுசேமிப்பின் பயன்
குறித்து பெண்கள் அதிகம்
தெரிந்து வைத்திருக்க வேண்
டும் இன்றைக்கு சமுதாயத்
தில் பெண்களை விட ஆண்
கள்தான் ஊதாரித்தனமாக
செலவழிக்கிறார்கள் காரணம்
அவர்களுக்கு குடும்பப்
பொறுப்பு என்பது குறைவு

சிக்கலும் தேவை

ஏனென்றால் சில கணவன்
மாரகளை தங்களுடைய மாத
சம்பளத்தை மனைவியிடம்
கொடுத்து விடுவதோடு தங்க
ளுடைய கடமை முடிந்து விட்
டதாக கருதி விடுகிறார்கள்

இது தவறு, மனைவியும் கண
வன் கொடுக்கும் சம்பளத்தை
குடும்ப செலவுகளுக்கு சிக்க
மாக செலவு செய்து மீதியை
சேமிக்க கற்றுக் கொள்ள
வேண்டும்

அது மட்டுமல்லாமல் வள
ரும் குழந்தைகளிடத்தில
சேமிப்பு என்ற உணர்வை
வளாக்க பெண்கள் முன்வர
வேண்டும்.

மேலும் பெண்கள் சினிமா
பார்ப்பதைக் குறைத்து அதன்
மூலம் கூட சேமிக்கலாம்
எனவே நல்ல வாழ்க்கை
அடைய வேண்டும் என்றால்
குடும்பத்திலுள்ள ஆண்கள்,
பெண்கள் என்று அனைத்து
தரப்பினருமே சேமிப்பு பழக்
கத்தை மேற்கொள்ள வேண்
டும்

இவ்வாறு அவர் பேசி
னார்

விழாவில் கலந்து
கொண்ட நடிகா நாசாருக்கு
சுலோச்சனா சாலமன் நினை
வுப்பரிசு ஒன்றை வழங்கி
னார் அதைப் பெற்றுக்
கொண்ட நாசர் சேமிப்பில்
முதலிடம் பெற்ற ராணியம்
மாள் என்பவருக்கு வழங்கி
னார்

கலந்து கொண்டவர்கள்

விழாவில் நாசா மனைவி
ரமினா திட்டஅலுவலர்கள்
அம்பலவாணன், ரோசி உட
பட பலர் கலந்து கொள்
பார்கள். விழாவிற்கு வந்திருந்
தவர்களை திட்ட அலுவலர்
விஜயகுமார் வரவேற்றுப்
பேசினார்

News Today
13th May 1998



Children participating in the summer camp organised by the Development Promotion Group, at Scripture Union Camp site, Mahabalipuram recently.

Summer camp for slum children held

Our News Bureau

Chennai, May 13:

Development Production Group (DGP), a non-government organisation working with the urban poor, organised a summer camp for the city slum children at Scripture Union Camp site, Mahabalipuram, from 6 to 11 May.

According to a press release here, at least 80 children participated in the camp and painting, doll making, straw and sponge work, dyeing, embroidery works were taught to them. The children were trained by the resource persons from the Jawahar Bala Bhavan, Chennai, the release added.

The DGP has been implementing its ur-

ban community development programme since 1994 and presently works in 10 slums of Mylapore, Chetpet, Egmore, Kilpauk, Kodambakkam and Triplicane. It also works for the elimination of child labour in the Corporation Zonal Division No.8.

The children from its target slums and the child labourers of its special transit school attended the meeting. The valedictory function held at the Scripture Union camp centre was presided over by Gunnasekar, principal, Government College for Architecture and sculpture, Mahabalipuram, and Banumathi, teacher special transit school for child labour pro-
pose a vote of thanks.

தினமலர்
16 மே 1998

குடிசைப்பகுதி சிறுவர்களுக்கு கோடை பயிற்சி முகாம்

முன்னேற்ற வளர்ச்சிக்குழு என்ற தன்னார்வ அமைப்பு, சிறுவர், சிறுமியர்களுக்கான கோடைப்பயிற்சி முகாமை மகாபலிபுரத்தில் நடத்தியது ஸ்க்ரிபட்சர் யூனியன் முகாம் மையத்தில் நடைபெற்ற இப்பயிற்சி முகாமில் பதினான்கு வயதுக குட்பட்ட என்பது சிறுவர், சிறுமியர் பங்கேற்றனர்

இந்நிறுவனம் தனது நகர்ப்புற மேம்பாட்டு முயற்சிகள் எனும் மேம்பாட்டு திட்டத்தின் கீழ் குடிசைப்பகுதிகளில் உள்ள சிறுவர், சிறுமியர்களுக்காகவும், சென்னை மாநகராட்சி மண்டலம் என் லே உள்ள குழந்தை தொழிலாளர்களுக்காகவும் இப்பயிற்சி யினை நடத்தியது

பஞ்சு, ஸ்டிராக்கள், ஸ்பான்ஜ் ஆகியவற்றினை பயன்படுத்தி பொம்மைகள் செய்திடவும்,

யூனியன் மையத்தில் இடதல், குடித்தல், ஓவியம் மற்றும் வன் ணம் தீட்டும் முறைதும், வயர்லாடை பின்னூதல், எஃப்.பிராய்டரி மற்றும் மட்டார் செய்தல் ஆகிய கைவினைப் பயிற்சிகள் அளிக்கப்பட்டன சென்னை யூவகர் சிறுவர் இல்லத்தின் கைவினை ஆசிரியர்கள் பயிற்சி அளித்தனர்

இப்பயிற்சி முகாமின் நிறைவுறான விழா கடந்த 15ம் தேதி நடந்தது. தமிழ்நாடு அரசு கட்டடக்கலை மற்றும் சிற்பக்கலை கல்லூரியின் முதல்வர் குணசேகர் தலைவராக தாக்கியார். இந்நிறுவனத்தின் திட்ட அலுவலர் ந. சோனரி வரவேற்றார். டி. பி. ஜி நிறுவன குழந்தைத் தொழிலாளர் இடைக்கால சிறப்புப் பள்ளியின் ஆசிரியை பானுமதி நன்றி கூறினார்

'Children's talents going waste'

Our Staff Reporter

Chennai, Dec 6: In spite of facilities provided by the government, thousands of children drop out of school every year due to economic compulsions at home. Department of School Education Joint Director, P Perumaiswamy, said today. Inaugurating a workshop on fine arts for slum children and child labourers, jointly organised by the Department of School Education and the Development Promotion Group (DPG), a non-governmental organisation, he said the root cause for the talents of millions of children going waste was the population explosion, which prevented the gains of economic and technological advancements from percolating to the

poor sections of society, he said.

Formal education should comprise not only lessons on science, maths and other subjects, but also focus on the fine arts as it would help the children lead a peaceful and productive life in their later years, he said.

He appealed to voluntary organisations to hold more cultural workshops for the underprivileged children. Joint Director, Thiruvalluvar and assistant director V Jaipal from the Department of Art and Culture and project director Bhaktar Solomon and programme officer N Rosy of DPG were present at the inauguration. About 175 children from 10 slums in Chennai city are participating in the two day workshop which is on at the Jawahar Bala Bhavan, Government Estate.

Seminar on 'Women and Environment' held

Our Staff Reporter

Chennai, July 1

Development Promotion Group (DPG) and Environment Training Institute, Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, jointly organised an one-day training programme and workshop on 'Women and Environment' to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Indian Independence at Penyar Science and Technology Centre here yesterday.

Inaugurating the workshop which was attended by more than 150 people from various slums in the city, Lakshmi Rajarathinam, novelist said plastic products are hazardous in nature and asked the gathering to avoid using articles made out of plastic. She said women had a greater role to play in the society.

Malarkodi Sugumaran from All India Radio, Dr Kalpana and Dr Usha Rani also spoke on the importance of hygiene and the relationship between health and environment.

G Ani Josephine, DPG, welcomed the gathering and Rosy proposed a vote of thanks.



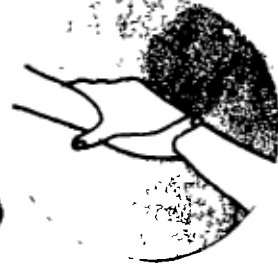
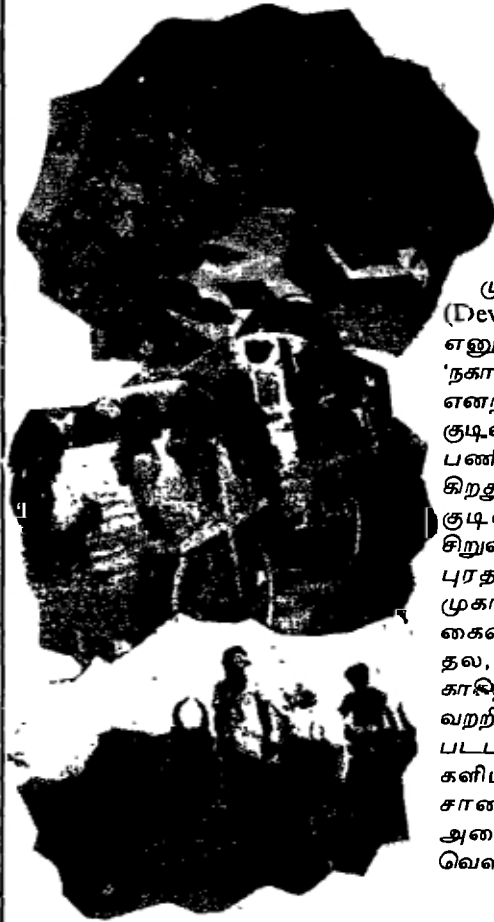
வட்டக் கடைக்கு செல்ல வேண்டாம்

பெண்மணி குழுக்கள் உறுப்பினிக் குழுவை பஞ்சக்கணில் மக்கள் கமிட்டிக் குழுக்களின் உருவாக்க வேண்டியது யூதில் உறுப்பினர்களுடைய சார்வத்திற்கு இருபது மாதம் ஐம்பது லட்ச ரெய்யுத வேண்டி அப்படி சேய்க்கடி படும் தொகை, உறுப்பினர்களின் ஆத் தியாவசிய தேவைக்காக துவக்கங்கே குடிவந்த வட்டிய வட்டவாக அளிக்கப் படுகிறது. இப்போதைக்கு சென்னையை சுற்றியுள்ள குடிசை, பகுதிகளில், இந்த கைய குழுக்களில் உறுப்பினர்களாக இருக்கும் பெண்கள், வட்டிக்கு பணம் கொடுக்கும் சேட்டு கடைக்கு தம் போதைக்கு டட்டா காட்டியுள்ளனர்! கடந்த பத்தாண்டுகளாக எந்த அரசியல் சார்பும் இல்லாத தன்னார்வத் தொண்டு திறமையான முன்னேற்ற வளர்ச்சிக்குழு (Development Promotion Group) தான் இந்த திட்டங்களுக்கு இரண்டு வருடத் துக்கு முன்பு பின்னையாக குடி போட்டது.

தமிழகத்தில் குடியி மாவட்டத்தில் மூலவாரிய மகளை மேம்பட்டு திட்டத் திணையும். நெல்லை கட்டபெருமான் மாவட்டத்தில் கிராமப்பகுதிகள் மேம்பட்டு திட்டத்திணையும். சென்னை இராச்சு மாவட்டத்தில் கிராமப்பகுதிகள்

பக்கம் போய் பணமும் திரியுமாய் பெலப்படுத்துகிறது. படிக்காத பெண் களுக்கு படிப்பில் கலம் மற்றுடான சி கார்ப்பணம் பெயர் உத்ப்புமும் உடைய உறுப்பினர் பெரும் 30 பெண்கள் படிப்பற்றவை பெற்றார்களும், கை தங்கு களின் மாடுகளைகால் முன்னேறு வேண்டி உள்ளும் தோக்கில் 10 பெண்களுட்கு லைபுறு பயிற்சி கொடுத்தது. 15 பெண்களுக்கு கையால் இயந்திரமும் களாக கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. மாவரைக்கும் இயந்திரம், துணி, வீய்ப்பணை, சுற்றலாடி விற்றபணை போன்ற பல்வேறு சிறுதொழில் முயற்சிகள் இக்குழுவில் கடன் உதவியால் துவங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. துடி தயிர் திறநிறுவனம் கடன் தொகையிணும் இக்குழுக்கள் மூலம் வழங்குகிறது. மாணாளிகளாக தேர்ந்தெடுத்த கடன் தொகையிணை வகுல் செய்வது வரை இக்குழுக்களே நிர்வாகத்திணை பார்த்துக் கொள்கின்றன.

சமுதாய சுற்றல எமயங்கள் ஓவ ரொட குடிசைப் பகுதியிலும் உருவாக சயட்டு பள்ளி செல்லும் குழந்தை களுக்கு மாணல தோ தளிய்பயிற்சி வகுப்புகள் நடைபெறுகின்றன. இந்நிலை வளையாமல் இம்புதிலாவது வளை கிறேன் என்றும் பெரிசுகளுக்கும் சேர்த்தே இவர்கள் அழுஷன் எடுக்கின்றனர்!



முன்னேற்ற வளர்ச்சிகுழு (Development Promotion Group) எனும் தன்னார்வ அமைப்பு 'நகர்ப்புற மேம்பாட்டு முயற்சிகள்' என்ற திட்டத்தின் கீழ் சென்னை குடிசைப் பகுதிகளில் மேம்பாட்டு பணிகளை செயல்படுத்தி வருகிறது. அதன் ஓர் பகுதியாக குடிசைப் பகுதிகளில் உள்ள சிறுவர் சிறுமியருக்காக மகாபலி புரத்தில் கோடை கால பயிற்சி முகாம் நடத்தியது. இதில் கைவினைப் பொருட்கள் செய்தல், பொம்மைகள் செய்தல், காணும் மடிகளும் கலை போன்ற வற்றில் சிறப்பு பயிற்சி அளிக்கப்பட்டது. திறமை ஏழைச் சிறுவர்களிடமும் உண்டு என்பதற்கு சான்றாய் முகாமில் பங்கேற்ற அனைவரும் தங்கள் திறனை வெளிப்படுத்தினர்.

-ராஜன்.

Development Promotion Group (DPG)

DPG was established in the year 1986 by a team of socially conscious development professionals to work for the marginalised in the rural/urban/tribal settings and assist them in their equitable, gender sensitive and sustainable development

- ➔ DPG implements programmes relating to water, sanitation, housing, watershed, rural/urban development, AIDS, child labour spread over thirteen locations in the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
- ➔ DPG works as a support institution working primarily with community based organisations with the objective of institutional strengthening and capacity building up of people based groups.
- ➔ DPG offers consultancy services on matters relating to community organisation and development, planning, monitoring, execution and evaluation of projects, market studies and accounting.
- ➔ DPG organises seminars/conferences/workshops on issues related to development.
- ➔ DPG brings out two half-yearly newsletters - titled "DPG News Review" and "DPG Water and Sanitation News Review", which provide periodic information on development themes pertinent to the NGO sector

The Urban Development Initiatives Project (UDI) of DPG addresses the poor communities living in the slums of Chennai city. The implementation of programmes started in 1995 with the aim of uplifting the lives of the poor by providing them with opportunities for their development. The programmes have been implemented for a period of four years on a year-to-year basis with financial aid from ActionAid. Also DPG wants to start similar initiatives in other slums of Chennai and in other districts of Tamil Nadu. Therefore DPG decided to have an impact assessment of the project so as to know the impact of the various interventions on the lives of the urban poor. Based on the assessment, it wants to suitably modify its future programmes.

This project has provided several learnings to DPG which have enriched DPG's experience and now DPG wants to disseminate these learnings to others working in this field.



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