

# SUSTAINABLE ECOLOGICAL THEME PARK FOR STREET CHILDREN

Activity Report for the Period of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006

Project Title : Project of Sustainable Ecological Theme Park for Street Children

Project No : 2004 - 538

Location of the project : Tirupur (Pongalur Block), Tamilnadu, India.

Project Executing Agency : Social Awareness and Voluntary Education (SAVE) Tirupur.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Tirupur is garments and textile products' manufacturing region and it is geographically expanding in six directions, the growth is even more and more after the phasing out of Multi Fiber Agreement (MFA). A sizeable section among the workers is internal migrants from neighbouring cities and other parts of Tamil Nadu, who are employed in the above-mentioned industries in Tirupur region. Internal migrant workers including women and children have not secured their rights.

SAVE is a dedicated social reconstruction organization that is working for Elimination of child labourers, women development and rescue and rehabilitation of the street and runaway children with good environmental conditions. Many abandoned and runaway children reach the Tirupur city by buses and trains and they are sent to the owners of hotels, bore wells, dyeing, garment industries, workshops, etc, and some fall prey in the hands of the kidnappers and traffickers being sexually exploited, and few children are trafficked to other districts to work in the bore well.

SAVE has so far rescued 700 abandoned and runaway children from Tirupur bus and railway station over years. Moreover, the abandoned and runaway children engaged in various occupations haven't been paid wages that is contrary to the Minimum Wages Act. They used to sleep in a cramped room and they have no proper health care available to them. In one word, street children live in extremely dangerous (unsafe) and poor living conditions.

SAVE realized the importance of improving the living conditions of street children & providing a capacity to earn a livelihood with dignity. In order to create a place for the children to play and relax with ecological concept, SAVE promotes the Sustainable Ecological Theme Park (SETP) at Alagumalai, nearby Tirupur. The rescued street, runaway children and child labourers are brought up in the Ecological Theme Park with humanitarian care and support.

This report describes various activities such as shelter, education, health care; vocational training and development of ecological land for initiating the rehabilitation programme for street, runaway and rescued child labourers for the period September 2005 to May 2006.

## **2. AIM AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT**

To identify, rescue and rehabilitate street children as dignified members of society by serving physical & social care and developing attitudes, education and income generation skills.

### **Specific Objectives**

- ❖ To create a place to work, play and relax.
- ❖ To give protection for street children from exploitation.
- ❖ To convert all energies of street children for positive actions.
- ❖ To develop moral characters as law abiding future citizens.
- ❖ To develop individuality of street children.
- ❖ To build their capacity in terms of future employment.
- ❖ To cultivate ecological sustainable living style.
- ❖ To motivate street children about the need to protect, conserve nature and environment.
- ❖ To create an environmental leadership among street children as a role model for other children.
- ❖ To operate a sustainable ecological park for street children.
- ❖ To inspire children and youth about the need to promote ecological sustainable living style by creating this sustainable ecological park for street children.

## **3. TARGET GROUP OF CHILDREN**

- ❖ Street and runaway children
- ❖ Orphan and semi-orphan children found in the streets and slums
- ❖ Abandoned children at bus stand and railway station.
- ❖ Children from broken families
- ❖ Child labourers

## 4. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES DURING REPORTING PHASE

### 4.1 Shelter to children

During this reporting period, 197 rescued children have been brought to both centres, the shelter home for street children and child labour residential home. Here, the coordinator provided counseling, identified the social and psychological needs of the children and the remedial measures and documented all the necessary information about the children. After counseling exercise, children are motivated to move away from their past experience and to imagine a bright and positive future. Food, accommodation and medical care are provided to children during their stay. Recreational facilities both in-door & outdoor games are made available to them.

139 children were admitted in the shelter home for Rescued Street children and 58 children brought to Child Labour Residential home, including 27 girl children out of 197 children who are staying in SAVE's shelter home for education. Among them, 20 children rejoined with their parents. Among these 58 children 47 are mainstreamed in regular formal education and now they are staying with their parents. Among the 139 rescued children only 14 children are staying right now in the shelter home and 33 remaining children are staying in Eco Park Shed for education, since building construction work yet to be began at **Sustainable Ecological Theme Park - SETP** at Alagumalai in Tirupur region.

S.N	Activities for Rescued Children	Sep 05	Oct 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06
1	Child Labour at Residential Home	56	58	57	44	50	52	52	55	55
2	Rescued Street children at Shelter Home Total - 139	14	8	17	16	20	13	15	18	18

Currently from 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2006, 33 children are staying in Sustainable Ecological Theme Park SETP among them 16 boys and 17 girls. 23 children including 5 girls are staying at shelter home for education and 14 children are staying at runaway children home. Totally 70 children are living under our care including 28 children from the first batch.

<b>N o.</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Objectives of the Activities</b>	<b>Strategy Adopted</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
1	<p>Enroll children at short stay home.</p> <p>Case history of the inmate on arrival Counseling.</p> <p>Food and accommodation.</p> <p>Skill training</p> <p>Medical facilities</p> <p>Recreational activities</p>	<p>To safeguard the children from child abductors.</p> <p>To provide healthy and safety environment.</p> <p>Skill and capacity building towards their great future.</p>	<p>Monitoring team members of SAVE rescued children from bus &amp; railway stations of Tirupur after creating a rapport with children and attracted them to bring into our home.</p> <p>Computer &amp; screen-printing introductory trainings are provided as capacity building vocational trainings.</p> <p>Medical checkup to all children.</p> <p>Recreational activities are imparted to children as a trauma care.</p>	<p>139 children rehabilitated.</p> <p>Children are rescued from kidnappers, labour brokers and traffickers. Children are rescued from immoral and unethical activities. Physically &amp; mentally sound.</p> <p>Assessment &amp; motivation are two key output of counseling.</p> <p>Health status &amp; medical care are provided.</p> <p>Children are provided enough time to relax and rest in order to overcome their trauma</p>

## **5. EDUCATION**

Children below the age of 14 years are taught primary education. They are able to develop alphabetic aptitude. 47 out of 58 children, including 27 girl children were mainstreamed into regular school during the academic year 2005-06. Among 139 rescued children, 58 children are provided non-formal education and stayed in the Residential Home. Most of the rescued children from bus and railway station have not even completed their primary education and all the inmates of 139 children who turn around to home are provided basic education to develop numerical and literacy skills. Play way and joyful teaching methods are adapted to attract the children. The teacher developed their knowledge, taught general knowledge and health education.

<b>Activities Planned</b>	<b>Objectives of the Activities</b>	<b>Implemented Activities</b>	<b>Strategy Adopted</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Basic education	To provide basic education  Providing formal and non formal education  Continuance of education	Non Formal education is given to 58 children and 47 children are enrolled in formal School.  Class room methods are adapted as per the plan.	Play way method and joyful teaching methods are applied to street children by using charts, games, stories and songs with classroom techniques as per the time table.	Children are beginning to learn  58 children are benefited.  Positive attitude and values are cultivated  Behavioral change is observed.  Knowledge is improved  Children are made to practice self-cleanliness and health.

#### **6. HEALTH CARE AND COUNSELING:**

Health and hygiene are among other factors on which SAVE puts its efforts too.

Dr. Paul M.B.B.S and Nurse Ms. Philomina Shakila made periodical visit to SETP and organized medical checkup for the children. Medical treatment is provided for minor problems and major cases are referred to the nearby hospitals for further treatment. Awareness programs on HIV/AIDS were conducted to street and runaway children. 6 children were referred to the private clinics nearby SAVE for their poor ill health during the reporting period.

<b>Activities Planned</b>	<b>Objectives of the Activities</b>	<b>Implemented Activities</b>	<b>Strategy Adopted</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Health Care	To provide Health checkup  To provide medical care and treatment	The 139 children in SAVE hostel are provided medical treatment by the medical team periodically and medicines are given according to their diseases  Health nurse had taken the classes on health education in every week.	Health checkup are organized at Hostel of children with the support of medical team. Some serious cases are referred to private clinic by two or four wheelers.	Health condition improved.  Physical appearance changed and looking healthy.

Counseling	To motivate the children to understand their situation.  To make the children to interact with others	Counseling is carried out among children by SAVE staff team. Different techniques are used to understand the situation.  The 94 children are provided counseling on stress management.	Individual counseling is carried out with counseling techniques.  Parental counseling is carried out during the reunification period.	Children overcome depression and stress.  Started Mingling with all children  Adjusted with new environment
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## 7. VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The children in the shelter home are not only educated through books but also exposed to learn vocational skills and training. It helped them to learn new skills, exhibit their talent and interests. It orients them towards their future world. Training on various components is conducted during the reporting phase are:

- Basic computer knowledge
- Tailoring
- Screen printing
- Paper carry bag making
- Envelope making

The children above 15 years who are runaway children and who have attained a stage where they can be educated along with other children. So they are not enrolled in vocational training so as to help them in getting employment. About 37 children are benefited from the various trainings.

Activities Planned	Objectives of the Activities	Implemented Activities	Strategy Adopted	Outcome
Vocational training	To provide vocational skills to the children in the age group of 15 to 18 years.  To improve the quality of life	37 children are provided vocational training to abandoned rescued children at shelter home.  The different types of trainings such as screen-printing, envelope making, computer training and paper carry bag making are provided.	Training is given to the children on the basis of interest of children through trainers	37 children got exposed to the training  Skills improved for better job opportunities.  Self-dependency improved.

## 8. DEVELOPMENT OF LAND

During the reporting phase, more developments have been made at Eco land to create Sustainable Ecological Theme Park for Children. The land with size of 6.55 acres which is nearly about 2,85,836.84 square feet with quality ground water resource and good soil for the purpose of organic farming. The following developmental activities are carried out at the land:

- Shelter home construction
- Land clearance
- Laying roads (non-tar roads)
- Water drip irrigation
- Vegetable garden
- Fruit farm
- Agro Forestry
- Dairy farm

### ***a. Shelter home construction***

SAVE constructed a shelter home for children in the size of 363 square feet to provide food, accommodation and a proper place to live and learn. Nearly 33 children are staying in the shelter at Eco Land. The remaining other children are staying at SAVE premises as new building for children is yet to be constructed during the reporting period.

<b>Activities Planned</b>	<b>Objectives of the Activities</b>	<b>Implemented Activities</b>	<b>Strategy Adopted</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Shelter Home	To provide food and shelter	Provided nutritious food and accommodation to the 93 children	Good space to live with nutritious food after rescue from risk.	Change in attitude and behavior is observed  Improvement of health  Safer place to live with good environment.

### ***b. Land clearance***

The land clearance is launched at the Eco Park with the help of local volunteers and street children in the age group above 15 years. The major activities of land clearance are clean the land, removing stones and thorns. Also a playground for children is launched by children in the north side of the land.

<b>Activities Planned</b>	<b>Objectives of the Activities</b>	<b>Implemented Activities</b>	<b>Strategy Adopted</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Land clearance	To clean the land and remove thorns and small stones  To make the children to play in the ground	Almost complete land is cleaned with the support of local volunteers.  A playground is launched by the support of street children.	Children above 15 years and local people involved in the process with tractor and bulldozer	Cleared land is used for cultivation and construction of buildings.

### ***c. Laying roads***

2 major roads and 3 cross roads are laid during the reporting phase in order to go around the land and bring the materials from outside for construction of the buildings.

<b>Activities Planned</b>	<b>Objectives of the Activities</b>	<b>Implemented Activities</b>	<b>Strategy Adopted</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Laying roads	To go around the land  To bring the materials to land by lorries.  To make the children for walking and cycling	The large roads are laid down at 2 sides of the land from north to south. The width of road is approximately 20 feet and length 600 feet each.  3 cross roads with 16 feet width and length 518 feet are laid down from east to west in 3 places.	All roads are laid down with JCB vehicle with proper drainage.	Children easily moved from one place to other place  The transport vehicles moved freely with building materials and access to all areas of the land is created

### ***d. Water Resource and Drip irrigation***

During the reporting phase, the well is deepened for 20 feet for water resource. The well is cleaned and safety inner wall is constructed. Water drip irrigation system is adopted to reduce the water consumption and increase efficient usage of water.

<b>Activities Planned</b>	<b>Objectives of the Activities</b>	<b>Implemented Activities</b>	<b>Strategy Adopted</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Water Drip irrigation	To provide self sufficiency of the park in terms of water consumption for agriculture purpose	Water drip irrigation method is adopted at the land. The small pipelines are connected with major pipeline near by the well through gate valves at different places to divert the water according to necessity.	The local experts and children involved into process.	Low water consumption.  Water efficient system developed.

**e. Vegetable garden**

During the reporting phase, 20 children were involved in formation and maintaining of vegetable garden with different types of vegetables such as tomato, onions and other vegetable plants. The vegetables are planted in 1000 sq. feet and maintained properly by our street and runaway children. The vegetable garden is a part of the grain farming area of the project.

**Planned Activity: Vegetable garden**

<b>Objectives of the Activities</b>	<b>Implemented Activities</b>	<b>Strategy Adopted</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>To provide ecologically friendly food by using organic manure for children in order to sustain food costs of the home</b>	Vegetable garden with different type of vegetable plants such as tomato, onion, green leaves, are planted and maintained.	Vegetable plants are planted in 1000 sq. ft Within the farming area of the park	The vegetables are used in the kitchen of shelter home.  No other purchase of vegetables from the outside markets

**f. Fruit farm**

It is established around the land with banana, mango. Drip irrigation arranged for fruit farm with proper care by using routine and regular water spraying. About 200 sapotta fruit plants and gooseberry are planted. The water level is going down in the well and getting trouble in watering.

**Planned Activity: Fruit farm**

<b>Objectives of the Activities</b>	<b>Implemented Activities</b>	<b>Strategy Adopted</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To provide fruits as nutritious food to children	Planted banana, mango, Papaya plants and sapotta fruit plants and gooseberry plants at several places	Maintained by children with good water, organic manure and vermin compost.	Children are about to get fruits regularly

### ***g. Agro Forestry***

During the reporting phase, about 10 small coconut trees and 60 grown coconut trees, 40 small teak wood trees and 150 Neem trees are planted around the entire campus. At the two sides of the road more plants like May flower, neem, etc. are planted. The children are maintaining the trees by pouring water, vermi compost and other organic manure.

#### **Planned Activity: Agro Forestry**

<b>Objectives of the Activities</b>	<b>Implemented Activities</b>	<b>Strategy Adopted</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To promote environment as a culture for living among them	Planted few more 10 coconut trees, 150 neem are planted and they are at growing stage	The children are maintaining trees by pouring water with using organic manure	Trees are at growing stage  It will make green shadow

### ***h. Dairy Farm***

<b>Activities Planned</b>	<b>Objectives of the Activities</b>	<b>Implemented Activities</b>	<b>Strategy Adopted</b>
Dairy farm	To provide milk to the children  To make organic manure for plants from cow dung	Totally 3 cows are purchased for dairy farm.  The cows are properly maintained by the gardener.  Periodical medical checkup is provided by animal doctors	Maintained by gardener with some trained children.

## **9. SPECIAL EVENTS**

Special days and events to sensitize the community had been observed and conducted during the reporting phase,

<b>S.no</b>	<b>Special Events</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Seminar on Child Trafficking	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2005
2	Children's Day	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2005
3	Human Rights Day	10 <sup>th</sup> December 2005
4	Women's Day	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2006
5	Anti Child Labour day	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2006
6	May Day	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2006
7	School Enrollment of 278 children	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2006

## 10. MAJOR PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

- Staff find hard to content the children in bringing them to short stay home, due to intimidation by abductors and brokers at bus and railway station.
- There is a shortage of manpower in the local place for construction work. Bringing labours for construction work from outside is very expensive
- Due to the failure of monsoon water level in the well is decreased.

## 11. FUTURE PLAN

- Shelter home will be constructed within six months period
- 100 children will be accommodated in the home presently they are in three places.
- Dairy farm, poultry farms, vermi compost will be established shortly.
- Establishing network with farmer's communities.
- Borewell will be constructed for water consumption.



*temporary place for children to stay*

## 12. REMAINING WORK:

Remaining work of the first year. The SAVE team could not complete the following as planned in the first year of the project.

1. Setting up pulp beating machine
2. Equipment for vocational training
3. Motor under the category of farm equipment
4. Construction of building

These items will be taken care to complete during these months.

### **13. CONCLUSION**

Overall implementation of the project is successful in supporting street, runaway and child labourers for rehabilitation. This program is appreciated by visitors (mostly activists) for its innovative approach of linking helpless children and ecology. The ecological concept actually overall environment seeds the thoughts of conservation in young mind. The overall activities by SAVE for this project for the past 1 year, giving more hopes and confidence to rescue the children and rehabilitate them with Ecological concept. Finally the program has been successful in busting the child trafficking network in and around the region and supporting children from anti social activities and improving their living conditions.