

TAMIL NADU

Kancheepuram Block

Hand-in-hand

Five resource persons are working in one block, covering 43 panchayats, in the Kancheepuram District in Tamil Nadu providing support to a local NGO called Hand in Hand since June 2004. It was seen that the NGO was running evening schools and a parallel centre for tribal children. Meetings were held with parents and these children were all mobilized for the local school. It was then decided with the NGO staff that these centres can be run as motivation centres but they could not become an alternative for schools.

A survey was conducted along with local youth support on children in school and out of school. Rallies were held, youth meetings conducted and door-to-door motivation drives held. The gram panchayats were also involved in this process. 25 bonded labour children were released and on the whole 174 children enrolled into school.

Nagapattinam District

Following the Tsunami on 26th December 2004 Action Aid International invited M. V. Foundation to help out with an assessment of the situation in respect of the Children's' education in the Tsunami affected areas in Tamilnadu. The objective of the project is to focus on the universalisation of education, covering all the children in these villages, to ensure that at the end of the project period, processes are built to ensure that every child is in school.

The project launched in the month of March 2005 was initially implemented in 25 villages spread over three panchayaths in Sirikali Block of Nagapattinam District but later expanded the program to include 89 habitations within 12 panchayats. Village support combined with successful motivation efforts have begun to have their intended effect. Children in the villages now have better access to healthcare and are supported more by their community to attend classes, thus they are more motivated to re-enrol and stay in school.