

Impact Assessment Study of the project implemented by Society for People's Education and Economic Change (SPEECH), Thiruchuli, Tamil Nadu.

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1. CONTEXT:

KINDERNOTHILFE (KNH), Duisburg, Germany is supporting grass root level child right and child focus community development interventions through its direct partner organization since past five years. These partners are spread over in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Mizoram and Karnataka states of India.

The target groups for KNH interventions are children, children at risk, adolescent girls and youth belonging to Dalith and Tribal Communities living in remote villages and urban slums. In all the interventions children, adolescent girls and youth are the main actors and right holders and the parents, local communities and the state are the duty bearers.

The strategies for KNH interventions involves support for formation and facilitation of children's groups, adolescent women's groups, youth groups, women's self-help groups, neighbourhood / village child protection committees and other community based organizations committed to strive for acquiring better living conditions and good future for poor and underprivileged children living in their respective areas.

Society for People's Education and Economic Change (SPEECH), Thiruchuli, Tamil Nadu is one of the partner organizations of KNH. The organization is implementing Srilankan Refugee Rehabilitation Project since April 2007.

The organization seeks further support from KNH to implement Children at Risk programme in its areas of operations. At this juncture KNH perceives the need of an impact assessment study to highlight organization's capacity and areas for improvement in effective implementation of child right programme interventions.

2. SCOPE AND MANDATE

2.1. Expected outcome of the impact assessment study

Impact assessment study is designed to review and assess possible impacts of various activities carried out by SPEECH over a period of 3 years. Specific emphasis is on understanding and identifying outcome of the following activities with a specific reflection on their origin, relevance, implementing capacity, successes and short comings as well:

2.1.1 Activities carried out by speech during 3 years¹ in three camps

S.N O	Themes and Key Activities	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		AnaiK uttam	Utcha ppatti	AnaiK uttam	Utchap patti	Kullur Santh ai	AnaiK uttam
1	CHILDREN SUPPORT						
1.1	Nutrition supply for under 5 years children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Construction (Repair / Provision of materials) of Balwadi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.3	Education materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4	Recreation facilities children park		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.5	Sensitisation Program - Child rights approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.6	Community facilitators (2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	ADOLESCENT CHILDREN						
2.1	Skill training for adolsecent girls						
	beautician course		<input type="checkbox"/>				
2.2	Computer training					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3	Driving for boys						
2.4	Higher Education support			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM						
3.1	Tailoring unit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Goat rearing / Poultry		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.3	Thatched leaf making unit						
3.4	Assistance to Nanayam group		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.5	Establishment of canteen& Department store		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.6	Capacity building sessions (MED)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT						
4.1	Drinking water facility		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
4.2	Drainage facility		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3	Individual toilets / Bathroom	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

¹ SPEECH withdrew from Utchhampatti after more two years of intervention due to constraints (Madurai District). SPEECH stopped working in Utchampatti from May 2009. Subsequently, initiated work in Kullur Santhai little (Virudhu Nagar District) over an year ago

S.N O	Themes and Key Activities	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		AnaiK uttam	Utcha ppatti	AnaiK uttam	Utchap patti	Kullur Santh ai	AnaiK uttam
4.4	Community toilets				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	CAPACITY BUILDING						
5.1	Child rights approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2	Awareness on HIV/AIDS			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Observation of Refugee day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.1.2 Unplanned activities:

- Women from camp participated in SPEECH organized women's day celebrations:
 - In Sivakasi in 2007-08
 - In Tiruchuli in 2008-09
- Kitchen garden in Anaikuttam: SPEECH provided compost, seeds and facilitation for raising kitchen gardens. Households living in sheds grew bitter gourd, pumpkin, bottle gourd, angular gourd, tomato, ladies finger, cluster bean, greens, etc., and used them for their own consumption as well as sold to others in the camps. Due to construction of houses, there is a need to revive these kitchen gardens. Women in Anaikuttam expressed this need and sought SPEECH assistance in procuring compost. *SPEECH visualizes it as one of the components towards food security in their regular development activities as well.*
- Distribution of prizes on special occasions / events.

2.2.2 Networking and lobbying

The impact assessment study shall identify and report on various aspects of networking and collaboration among KNH direct partners organizations, and other likeminded concerned organization in the area of capacity building of poor and underprivileged children and their communities leading them towards social and political empowerment with specific focus on child rights as well as lobbying with the government departments who are catering to the needs of the children belonging to Sri Lankan Refugee Families.

2.1.3. Practicing efficient and effective project management:

The impact assessment study assessed efficiency and effectiveness of programme planning, implementation strategy, monitoring, reporting, maintenance of accounts, documentation and capacity building activities.

This assessment highlights the restrictions and limitations for an external foreign funded NGO in working with refugees in the context of national security and the constraints faced by the partner organisation in program implementation.

2.1.4 Innovative programme interventions and Recommendations:

Impact assessment study has documented the innovative and replicable interventions undertaken by SPEECH and provides relevant and practical interventions and implementation strategies for future programmes.

3. METHODOLOGY AND REPORTING

A stakeholder involved consultative approach was adopted. A mix of methods was used to collect data. A participatory impact assessment framework guided the process of data collection. A team of evaluators Mr. T.R. Shyam Sundar and A. Xavier Raj carried out this external evaluation along with DeSilva Stanley from KNH, A. Erskine (Project Director of SPEECH), R. Pitchai (Project Coordinator), V. Selvam (Senior Accountant), M. Umapathi (Social Worker), field staff, SHG members, children and other members of Sri Lankan Refugee community. List of participants are included in the Annexure 1.

Evaluation team utilised the following process / tools for this impact assessment study:

- Review of documents
- Consultations with KNH representative, SPEECH Project Director, Project Staff and Field Staff
- Group Discussions and In-depth Interviews in camps
- Case Studies
- Transect walk and observations

4. DATES FOR THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY

Field visits for impact assessment was between November 1st and 3rd, 2010. Final report was submitted on November 10th 2010. The table below shows date wise activities carried out by impact assessment team.

Impact Evaluation Tasks:

Date	Evaluation tasks	
1-Nov-10	Consultation with KNH Representative and Project Implementation Staff	Field visit to Kullur Santhai
2-Nov-10	Field visit to Anai Kuttam and Utchappatti	
3-Nov-10	Review of project implementation, monitoring, finance, reporting, etc., followed by debriefing of project staff	
4th to 8th November 2010	Preparing Draft Report	
9-Nov-10	Submission of report for review	
10-Nov-10	Final presentation and submission of report	

SPEECH provided the entire project related information, facilitated the impact assessment exercise with staff at three camps and organized logistic arrangements for the impact assessment study.

5. LIMITATIONS

The team could not meet enough adolescent children because they were away at schools and colleges.

Certain sensitive issues, such as their rights as refugees, could not be discussed in the camps.

The team had to confine itself to group discussions and one to one interactions.

6. SUPPORT TO CHILDREN

6.1 Activities proposed and implemented during the project

Nutritional supplements, provision of notebooks, play materials, chairs and mats for balwadi (community run crèche), repair work in Balwadi and setting up of children play areas are activities proposed. SPEECH initiated these activities in 2007-08 in Annaikuttam and Utchappati camps. Kullur Santhai was brought in after a series of discussion with camp community, NGOs and District Administration, in lieu of Utchappati, in September 2009. Activities in Utchappati were stopped in May 2009.

Nutrition supply for under 5 years children: Children join Balwadi at the age of 2.5 years and continue till they start attending schools, upto a maximum of 5 years of age. Nutritional supplements referred to as “Sathumavu²,” is given to each children around 11 AM. This supplements free noon meal provided at Balwadi to children by Government of Tamil Nadu. Community facilitator is responsible for giving Sathumavu to children at Balwadi in the camps.

Construction of Balwadi: SPEECH carried out a few repairs for Balwadi located in Utchappati (2007-08) and Aanaikuttam (2008-09).

Education Materials: SPEECH provided notebooks and school bags to all school going children in the camps. Note books are distributed at the time of school reopening annually. Parents are quite happy with this provision as it lessens financial burden of sending their children to school. Parents also appreciated quality of notebooks distributed.

In Addition, SPEECH also distributed play materials, visual aids, chairs and mats for Balwadis.

Assistance for higher education was appreciated by parents. Furthermore, interactions revealed that Sri Lankan refugee families value education as an asset.

Recreation facilities children park: Children parks have been established in Utchappati (2007-08), Anaikuttam (2008-09) and Kullur Santhai (2009-10). This is one of the important contributions which directly benefits children in camps. It is important to note that these play areas have been created for the first time in any camp. Children gather, play and interact with each other in this space. Location of the children park in the prominent place in camp also helps use of these facilities by children.

Sensitisation Program - Child rights approach: Emphasis was placed on the basic four components of child rights, namely prevention, protection, provision and participation. Parents, children, adolescent girls, leaders / opinion leaders in camps, functionaries of Balwadi and volunteers of other NGOs in camps were sensitized through awareness

² Ingredients: Wheat, parboiled rice, maize, fried gram, millet, moong bean, ragi, sorghum, soya, barley, samba wheat, groundnut and moong dal

programmes. A manual prepared by RCPDS, a sister concern of SPEECH, was utilised for these trainings.

6.2 Outputs and outcomes

Given below are the outputs:

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Nutrition supplements for 135 children	Nutrition supplements for 105 children	Nutrition supplements for 142 children	Nutrition supplements for 95 children
Education materials supplied to 476 Children	Education materials supplied to 349 Children. Pre school children play material & furnitures were supplied during the financial year	Education materials supplied to 461 Children	Education materials supplied to 360 Children
Children's park established in Utchappatti Camp	Childrens park established in Anaikuttam camp	Children's park established in Kullur Santhai camp	Kullur Santhai Children's park fencing established
Almairah, Fans, Individual chairs, to under five children, School bags,	5 Child rights training were conducted and 157 children participated	448 Children participated in child rights camps	2 Child rights training were conducted and 64 children participated.
Childrens get to gather programs	49 Members were trained in child rights concepts	120 members attended in 4 child rights trainings 66 Children attending sports meet at Kullursanthai camp	

6.3 Constraints

Recognizing these limitations information pertaining to child rights have been transmitted during SHG meetings, community meetings, interactive sessions with adolescent girls and educating children at large. Tactically the focus has been at family level with mothers, children and community at large. The emphasis is on communicating basic child rights. Children could not be taken out on exposure visits as well as participation in larger child rights forum of SPEECH.

Unlike in the case of children living in villages / urban areas, children in camps are more secured given that they have restricted mobility and outsider intrusion not permitted in the camps.

6.4 Suggestions and recommendations

Evaluation team obtained suggestions from parents, SHG and opinion leaders in the camps. They are:

- Parents in all the three camps appreciated provision of nutritional supplements to children and visible change in weight of children as well as health. Parents requested SPEECH and KHN to continue with nutritional supplements as its impact is visible and desirable.
- SHG members, parents and community members pointed out the requirement for provision of education materials – notebooks, bags and other stationeries for the children. This should be continued.
- SHG members and community representatives requested for provision of chairs, mats, play materials and education materials for Balwadi at Utchappatti
- Currently tuitions for children could not be conducted in Utchappatti as community hall is being used for storing PDS supplies. Alternative option is to use Balwadi, which does not have electricity connection. Erratic supply of electricity is another problem. To overcome these problem, provision of solar lamps for tution center at Utchappatti, has been requested
- Maintenance of children play area

7. SKILLS TRAININGS FOR ADOLESCENT CHILDREN

7.1 Activities proposed and implemented during the project

Activities proposed for adolescent girls / boys include beautician course, computer training and driving for boys. Girls in Utchappati participated in 12 days beautician course conducted in the camp (2007-08). Computers have been provided at Anai Kuttam and Kullur Santhai for training children and youth in computer skills. Trained instructors have been identified in the respective camps. Children / youth attend computer classes between 6 to 9 PM, Monday to Friday.

Due to restrictions in the provision of driving licenses to Sri Lankan Refugees proposed training of boys in driving was abandoned.

Furthermore, adolescent girls tend to stand vulnerable in their respective work environment, especially for those who working outside the camps, such as mills, factories, construction, etc. SPEECH addressed this issue during discussions and meeting sessions with adolescent girls. It is felt that a focused intervention in the form of creating awareness and equipping the dealt with situations arising in work environment.

7.2 Outputs and outcomes

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
1 Beautician course in Utchappati	Counselling sessions organized for both adolescent boys & girls in Utchappati and Anai Kuttam.	2 computer centres established one in Anaikuttam and another in Kullur Santhai	Computer centre maintenance was completed during the period.
Children's get-together programs	9 children received Higher education assistance (Utchappati camp)	40 children learnt computer skills in the 2 camps	10 children received Higher Education assistance (Anaikuttam Camp)

Out of 12 adolescent girls who participated in beautician courses, about 6 are utilizing their skills for earning supplementary income. Others are providing this service within camp to their neighbours during functions.

Parents in the camps appreciate the provision of computer for training in the camps. According to them their children had to go long distances and pay fees to get computer education. They suggested that more children should benefit from this facility.

7.3 Constraints

- Irregular electricity supply for computer classes (Anaikuttam and Kullur Santhai) and tuition centers (Utchappatti)
- Adolescent girls / boys and children could not be exposed, to their peer groups outside the camps with whom SPEECH works, due to restrictions. SPEECH works on rights based approach through children's parliament in its regular development interventions.

7.4 Suggestions and Recommendations

- More children be trained through beautician course
- To support more children for higher education
- Increase loan amount for higher education
- Focussed intervention for adolescent girls to address vulnerability

8. FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

8.1 Activities proposed and implemented during the project

Special women approach was evolved based on learnings from other projects of SPEECH. When Kullur i was taken up, for, it was felt something different and new could be adopted. Considering substantial presence of single women (most of them being widows), the decision to design a specific component for single women, their children and families was considered.

- Formation of Nanayam groups
- Livelihood support: tailoring machines, goats / poultry, setting up fancy stores / retail outlets
- Training for group IGP activities: soap, soap powder, washing powder, toilet cleaner, etc.

In addition to the above, members were availing credit for their buying and selling activities (sarees, nighties, clothing, etc.,) during festive seasons.

8.2 Outputs and outcomes

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
45 women SHG members trained in self help group concepts	10 women SHG members assisted with sewing machine	21 women SHG members trained on soap and oil making	10 SHG members assisted with goat rearing assistance (Anaikuttam & Kullursanthai)
10 members received sewing machines	10 Nanayam group members received goat rearing assistance	During the reporting period 12 women were supported for setting up chilly powder business, idly shop, fancy store, halwa business, and sewing and cloth sales	
12 members trained in beautician course	13 Nanayam group members set up a group business - Cloth sales (Utchappatti cmap)	18 Members assisted with goat rearing assistance (Kullur Santhai & Anaikuttam)	
10 Single women assisted with country chicken (Anaikuttam camp) Family members were trained in Gender sensitisation, Child rights approach , Sustainability of SHG groups,	1 Nanayam group assisted for setting up a fancy store (Utchappatti Camp) 4 women members assisted to business		

Listed below are some of the outcomes of family support programmes implemented in the camps:

- Availing loans at 2 % monthly interest by members of SHGs to meet their needs: medical expenses, children's education, livelihood, house repair and social functions / ceremonies.
- Improvement in credit worthiness of SHG members, especially special women
- Perceived improvement in self respect, esteem and confidence
- Reduction in borrowing from money lenders at exorbitant rates

- Asset creation in the form of equipment, household items, livestock and value addition houses
- Acceptance of women, specifically special women, by family and community
- Participation in macro-level institutions such as bank and interaction with wholesalers, traders and outsiders
- Discussing and representing camp issues
- Mobility, linkages and exposure with other development institutions, although the opportunities for doing so are limited due to camp restrictions
- Nanayam groups in Utchhappati continue to save, lend and manage their group activities despite withdrawal by SPEECH

8.3 Constraints

- Due to camp restrictions they could not be taken out for training / exposure visits
- Trade / livelihood options are restricted / confined to in and around camps

8.4 Suggestions and Recommendations

- Livelihood support to be extended to all women in the camp
- Resuming activities in Utchhappati camp
- Emphasis on goat / poultry / tailoring / petty shops / petty trade for supplementing family income
- Increasing number of IGP loans to SHG members
- Provision of water and sanitation facilities

9. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

9.1 Activities proposed and implemented during the project

It has been proposed to provide drinking water, construction of drainage channel, individual toilets / bathrooms and community toilets. SPEECH sought necessary permission and engaged community in the process of implementation. One of the issues faced by SPEECH is location of borehole, water tank, drainage channel, community bathrooms / community toilets. With limited resources it was not possible to ensure provision of water and sanitation facilities to cover entire camp, a demand put forward by the community. In Utchappati it was not possible to convince the community on construction of 30 individual toilets and thereby had to be dropped. District administration too anticipating disgruntlement within camp did not provide permission for toilets.

Borehole was located in place identified through water divining. A syntax tank has been provided for storing water. A drainage channel was constructed in Anai Kuttam camp, community bathrooms in Kullur Santhai and individuals toilets in Anaikuttam and Kullur Santhai. Repairs have been carried out in community toilets.

9.2 Outputs and outcomes

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
<p>Most of the houses got Electricity connection (Utchappatti camp)</p> <p>Drinking water supply</p> <p>1. Bore Hole drilling, fitted with hand pump at anaikuttam camp</p> <p>2. Bore hole fitted with electric motor , water tank, pipe lines and electric connection at Utchappatti camp (This activity under community toilet budget head with a approval of KNH)</p> <p>150 Meter sewage canal construction at Anaikuttam camp</p> <p>Bath room construction at Anai kuttam camp</p>	<p>Installation of syntax tank at Ucthappatti camp</p>	<p>Bath rooms construction for women and Children at Kullour santhai refugee camp</p> <p>18 individual toilets were constructed in 2 camps (Anaikuttam and Kullur Santhai)</p>	<p>3 Individual toilets were conducted in Kullur Santhai camp</p>

9.3 Constraints

- Utchappati request for construction of 30 toilets could not be carried out due to district administration insisting on either complete coverage or no coverage

9.4 Suggestions and Recommendations

- Request for additional bore wells to cater to the needs of all families
- Additional bathrooms in Anaikuttam and Kullur Santhai
- Provision of individual / community toilets

10.COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

10.1 Activities proposed and implemented during the project

Rani from Anaikuttam shared her experiences and transformations having gone through the child rights orientation programme – “I was a mother who strongly disciplined my children not recognizing their rights. But, today, I have understood how children’s vulnerability to abuse can be prevented and dealt with. I have also understood the precautionary measures and approaches that I should be taking to ensure that my children have their own space but feel secure.”

10.2 Outputs and outcomes

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Conducting regular co ordination committee meetings	79 SHG Members were trained in SHG concepts	The self help group (Nanayam) members were given orientation on writing simple accounts – book keeping, bank transaction and mobilization of funds from bank	40 SHG members exposure visit to MED partners in Alangulam SHG Federation
Attending NGO Co ordination meetings	29 SHG Members have under gone MED Trainings	45 SHG members exposed to the consequences, causative agent for HIV / AIDS	During the period AIDS awareness poster campagin was completed
Attending KNH Partners meetings	Attending NGO Co ordination meetings		2 Capacity building trainings were conducted for family members and adolescents children.
Sports and talent competition for children and youths	64 Adults and middle aged members were trained on HIV /AIDS awareness.		Refugee day was observed in 2 camps (Anaikuttam and Kullur Santhai) during the month of June, 2010
Refugee day was observed in 2 camps (Utchappati and Anaikuttam) during the month of June, 2007			
Attending monthly meetings of SHG's	Attending monthly meetings of SHG's	Attending monthly meetings of SHG's	Attending monthly meetings of SHG's

Key outcomes:

- Awareness of HIV/AIDS: how it spreads, prevention including safe sex practices, myths and misconceptions related to spread of HIV/AIDS (Community claim that to date they have not had HIV / AIDS infected persons in their camps)
- Financial, management, leadership and negotiation capacity enhanced
- Aware of child rights and also how to adopt to situations in family context and external

10.3 Constraints

- Limitations in reaching out to men, including youth, in the camps due to them being out at work and camp rule that no outsider could be present after 6 PM.
- Restrictions placed by regulating authorities on the level of engagement that NGO could have with camp community

10.4 Suggestions and Recommendations

- Continue lobbying and negotiation with regulatory authorities
- Production of multimedia materials that could be viewed in the camp by youth, women and community at their convenience
- Enhancing capacity of community facilitators and youth in camps using multimedia materials to create awareness

11.NETWORKING AND LOBBYING

11.1 Activities proposed and implemented during the project

Till May 2009, there was a coordination among NGOs who are working in Sri Lankan Refugee Camps. For example, OFERR camp level representatives participate in meetings / training organized by SPEECH. These coordination at camp and NGO level is useful in avoiding duplication, for strategic intervention and effective utilization of resources created at camp level. At camp level NGO volunteers do participate in meetings convened by respective NGO staff.

11.2 Outputs and outcomes

Shifting from Utchappatti to Kullur Santhai was facilitated through discussion with district administration and other NGOs implementing projects in refugee camps.

It is believed that wastage of resources is minimal due to close coordination amongst other NGOs, Camp Coordinator, SHG, youth groups, District Administration as well as Q Branch.

11.3 Constraints

Due to changing political environment and ending of funding cycle for some of the NGOs, coordination meeting among NGOs could not be held.

11.4 Suggestions and Recommendations

- Encourage other NGO members / representatives to participate in the activities of SPEECH so as to ensure wider reach

12. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

12.1 Programme planning

Baseline report using a PRA was prepared during the preparation of proposal for this project. This baseline was carried out in 2006. Baseline data was useful in planning, sequencing activities, provision of supplies and locating resources within camps. Baseline data was also used to identify appropriate livelihood options, capacity building requirement as well as timing of various activities. Engagement with community, government and other NGOs complemented this process.

12.2 Implementation strategy

SPEECH identified a coordination committee at camp level. Community Facilitator in each camp coordinated activities at camp level. Key responsibility for day to activity at camp lies with community facilitator. Community facilitator being residing member of refugee camp has been able to carry out activities within the bounds of camp regulation and restriction.

Community facilitators in the camp are supported by trainers, project coordinator, project director and resource persons identified during various stages of implementation of project.

A community and stakeholder involved approach has been adopted. Consultative process has been adopted during various stages of locating resources within the community. This also ensured resolving contentions, negotiating for consensus or support from various members of the community. Training and capacity building adopted cascading mode to transfer skills, capacities and information. SPEECH utilised local resources both within camps and a team that has been working in SPEECH for many years. Accumulated staff experience, exposure to grassroots' development issues and rights and empowerment framework (a consistent approach advocated and practiced by SPEECH) guided implementation process.

Training material / manual have been prepared.

12.3 Monitoring

Monitoring Committee has been established at camp level. Coordination committee at camp level contributed to decision making, monitoring and resolving issues. These committees have representations from other NGOs working in the camps, youth group and community representatives. Project coordinator participates in coordination committee at camp level. Based on these project coordinator in consultation with staff prepares a monthly plan. A monthly planning chart is prepared and submitted.

Project coordinator monitors community facilitators. Project director visits each camp twice a month and during important meetings. SHGs sends group resolution and individual's requests directly to SPEECH Office.

Project coordinator submits a monthly plan for approval. During monthly staff meetings review of progress during previous month and plan for next month are discussed. Representatives of SHG members also participate in this monthly staff meetings.

Based on monthly plan funds are allotted by finance section. Finance prepares receipts, bills and other supportive.

12.4 Capacity building

The following activities contribute to continuous capacity building of project staff engaged in this project:

- Regular staff training once in two months.
- Sharing and reflection during monthly staff meetings.
- KNH partners' meeting, once a year.

12.5 Stakeholder engagement

SPEECH engaged Government Officials, NGO staff (senior and field staff) and community representatives during implementation. The stakeholder involved approach ensured participation, contribution to planning and implementation and resolving issues that came up. KNH representatives visited field, accommodated changes in budget line items, facilitated partner NGOs engagement, and capacity building of project staff.

Therefore, level of stakeholder engagement could be considered satisfactory. Room for engagement could be considered in interface with Government Functionaries.

12.6 Reporting

The following reports have been prepared and available at SPEECH office:

SPEECH Head Office:

- Report on IGP Trainings
- Minutes of staff meeting
- Monthly plans
- File for Paper Cutting and distribution of note books

Field Level:

- Nutritional Supplement Register
- Weight Monitoring Records
- SHG related registers: Bank Pass Books, accounts books and minutes books,
- Attendance register computer classes

Reports submitted to KNH and other statutory bodies

- Annual reports to KNH – narrative and financial
- Submission of reports to fulfill statutory requirements – FCRA, IT, Society Registrar and local IB.

12.7 Accounting

Yearly budget is approved. Money is disbursed thrice a year on a four monthly basis. Annual report is submitted. Unaudited / audited statements have been prepared and submitted to KNH. Due to some of the activities not being carried out, unutilized funds are available for alternative activities subject to approval from KNH.

12.8 Documentation

Training reports available for the three camps: Awareness among SHG members, micro-enterprise capacity building, child rights training SHG members, tailoring, maintenance of group accounts / records, women's rights, awareness about HIV/AIDS, child rights for students, child rights for women / mothers, and child rights for children (12 to 16 years),

Visual documentation of meetings and activities are also available.

12.9 Restrictions and limitations of working in refugee camp settings

Government of India has not acceded to the convention on refugees. However, Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu have extended their assistance to Sri Lankan refugees in the form of setting up of refugee camps, food supplies and other supports. Government of Tamil Nadu has also published the facilities that it has provided to Sri Lankan Refugees staying in Tamil Nadu.

UNHCR recognizes strategic issues related to refugees irrespective of the host nation that they are a group who would be repatriated once normalcy is restored. Hence, provisions in the form of goods and services within refugee settlements are always perceived as temporary. However, UNHCR views that core values of human rights guides any support extended in camps. All these poses limitations to NGOs in terms of what they could offer.

Specifically, SPEECH experienced certain challenges working in these camps. Primarily in the form of securing necessary permissions, adhering to guidelines laid down by District Authorities, sharing training / communication materials and reporting. All these pose challenges during implementation, especially using a rights based framework.

Due to changing political environment and ending of funding cycle for some of the NGOs, coordination meeting among NGOs could not be held.

Other difficulties experienced during implementation are:

- Irregular electricity supply in the camps
- Adolescent girls / boys and children could not be exposed to their peer groups outside the camps with whom SPEECH works
- Women, adolescent boys and girls and children could not be taken out for training / exposure visits
- Trade / livelihood options are restricted / confined to in and around camps
- Limitations in reaching out to men, including youth, in the camps due to them being out at work and camp rule that no outsider could be present after 6 PM.
- Restrictions placed by regulating authorities on the level of engagement that NGO could have with camp community

13. INNOVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 Innovative programme interventions

13.1.1. *Sirappu Pengal (Special Women) SHGs*

In Kullur Santhai women mentioned that SPEECH identified single women (windows and separated) as special women. SPEECH not only came up with the idea of coining this term special women to refer to single women, they formed them in SHG, provided training,

disbursed loans, conducted training and extended other supports. Women felt this helped them to overcome stigma shrouding widows and changed the way they perceived themselves.

Participating in functions or religious rituals or wearing good clothes / ornaments are considered inappropriate and normally avoided by widows. Being members of SHG, participating in training, ability to contribute to SHG fund, being creditworthy, support from their kith and kin helped them to overcome their initial inhibitions. There is an open acknowledgement from members of these two special women groups (27 members) of the impact SPEECH interventions have on their life as well as gratitude for making this happen. Many of them are vocal about transformation in their personal life.

Devamanohari reflected the views of 'Special Women' saying, "Women have lost only their *thali* (wedding chain) and *Kumkum* (applied on forehead) along with their husbands. But they have not lost their rights as women and those provided by their parents." This reflects transformation in the lives of 27 'special women' adding value to their life.

To summarize innovation of this particular approach are:

- Using a tested model from their main development programme from village setting in camp
- Not using the term widows, but 'special women', creating a new identity. The term *vidavai* (widow) in Tamil has a negative connotation, imposes restrictions in their movement, participation in social / important functions, etc.
- SPEECH encouraged them to start the groups with whatever they can afford (Rs. 50 savings and Rs. 5 subscription per month)
- SHGs were able to disburse loans to 12 members for rearing goats, fancy store and educational loan for economic activities
- A rights based slant to emphasize on individual rights to exist with dignity after the demise of husband

13.2 Recommendations

It is proposed that this initiative be continued in all three camps for at least two years to ensure that economically weaker families are able to come out of the trap and are able to sustainably meet the family needs particularly in relation to their children with the emphasis on the following:

- Targeting economically vulnerable families in the camps – single women, no access to supplementary income earning opportunities and no extended family support
- To address issues of vulnerability affecting adolescent girls, especially those working in mills, factories, construction sites, etc.
- Continuing support for children in the form of notebooks, bags, play materials and sensitization of community on child rights
- Provision for meeting increasing demand for IGP loans
- Insurance cover for livestock
- To address growing health / medical expenses (borrowings from nanayam reflect this trend)
- Improving water, sanitation and hygiene environment in the camps

14.EXPECTATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

14.1 Kullur Santhai

- Give material for construction individual household toilets
- Individual loan for goat rearing

14.2 Utchappati

- Community, especially women, requested SPEECH to return to their camps. Specifically they felt nutritional supplements, play materials / chairs for the balwadi children and lighting for tuition centers are the immediate needs.
- They also felt circumstances that led to withdrawl of SPEECH from Utchappati have changed. Therefore, atmosphere is more conducive now for SPEECH to restart their work in the camp

14.3 Anai Kuttam

- Tailoring and beautician trainings, loans for goat rearing, poultry and other IGP activities
- Revival of kitchen garden with provision of compost

ANNEXURE 1: PARTICIPANTS LIST

Name of the camp : Annaikuttam

Date : 2.11.2010

S.No	Name
1	Chandra / Thirunavikarasu
2	Sarojini / Logeswaran
3	Suganthi / Raja
4	Devamanokari / Manikaran
5	Nishanthini / Susith
6	Rani / Chokalingam
7	Reeta / Pattumanai
8	Malar / Kumar
9	Kethishwari / Navaneethan
10	Maheswari / Sivaramakrishnan
11	Devika / Durai
12	Kala / Selvam
13	Povammal / Kandhasamy
14	Duritham / Ramar

Name of the camp : Utchappatti

Date : 2.11.2010

S.No	Name
1	Premkumari / Ravichandran
2	Rajamalar / Ravichandran
3	Paritha / Karupaiah
4	Nirosha / Lempan
5	Mari / Anthony
6	Mariareeta / Antony
7	Manonmani / Nimalaselvan
8	Sarasvathi / Thangaraja
9	Parameswari / Ramasamy
10	Pathmakumari / Mahendran
11	Nageswari / Thiyakarajan
12	Jothi / Vigneswaran
13	Abirami / Thangavel
14	Kurinjimalar / Nithiyanatham
15	Queenthakurush / Udhayan

Name of the camp : Kullur Sandhai

Date : 1.11.2010

S.No	Name
1	Devamanokari / Parbanaban
2	Janaki / Paramanathan

S.No	Name
3	Pitchaiammal / Rajedran
4	Valliammal / Palani
5	Chellammal / Velu
6	Sarojini / Ponnampalam
7	Devanai / Sudusalam
8	Lakshmi / Palaniandi
9	Sandhanalakshmi / Durairaj
10	Mankayee / Arumugam
11	Mariammal / Balakrishnan
12	Jeyamani / Durairaj
13	Dhavamanimalar / Sivaraj
14	Lalitha / George
15	Sivanammal / Paulraj

STAFF MEETING AT SPEECH, THIRUCHULI

Date : 1.11.2010

S.No	Name of the staff	Designation
1	A. Arunodhayam Erskine	Project Director
2	R.Pitchai	Program Co-ordinator (Refugee)
3	V.Selvam	Sr. Accountant
4	M.Christy sheela	Program Co-ordinator (Child rights)
5	S.Salaimathalai	Community Organizer
6	V.Murugeswari	Community Organizer
7	J.Krisnaveni	Child Rights Trainer
8	S.Selvarani	Child Rights Trainer