

UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN AT CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU

No. of villages adopted in translating their knowledge for digital information -2

Muhanthanoor Village and Kanganancherry Village

The Central University of Tamilnadu has initiated a campaign on Five Hundred Households each in these two Villages to canvas for "Digital Payments-What,Why and How" as a part of the VISAKA(VittaSaksharataAbhiyaan" Mission. A nearby Weekly Market at Kanganancherry has been identified for the VISAKA Campaign, to sensitise them on the concept of Digital Economy and Digital Payment System with the Vice-Chancellor himself leading the Campaign Mission. The Extension Cell of the Central University of Tamilnadu coordinates with the NSS , State Bank of India and Student Volunteers and evolved the Modus Operandi like Issue of Debit Cards to all the Vendors and Canvassing for Net Banking Techniques with the Public Village Consumers.

2015-2016

The Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) has initiated a movement known as Unnat Bharat Abhiyan envisaging an inclusive India, in 2014, in which the Indian villages would be transformed by means of the relevant and productive interventions of Indian academic institutions. On the recommendation of the MHRD, Central University of Tamil Nadu (hereafter, CUTN) is committed to participate in this national movement. In this regard, the university has constituted the Community Development Cell (hereafter, CDC) consisting of the following faculty members: Prof. Nirmal Selvamony (chairperson), Dr. Madhurima, Dr. Jayalakshmi, Dr. Kumar and Dr. Ramkumar.

Identification of Villages and Village Survey

CDC of CUTN has, as a preliminary measure, identified two villages in Tiruvarur District, Thenkovanur and Vadakovanur for its community development projects. With Dr. T. Jayraman providing local guidance to the villages, the CDC team visited the villages for two days, 20th and 28th January 2016, and gathered basic information about the villages with the help of the department of Social Work, CUTN.

Each of these two villages constitutes a Panchayat Board within the Mannargudi Panchayat Union and both are in the Needamangalam Taluk. River Korayar, a tributary in the Vennar System of Cauvery, is their source of irrigation. Borewells are a supplementary source of irrigation for a few farmers in these two villages. The principal occupation for both villagers is cultivation of paddy. North-East monsoon brings rain during October-November by which time a few farmers would have started the second crop for the year. Most of the farmers cultivate only a single crop. Nearly three out of ten families rear milch animals, mostly cows of exotic breed.

The acreage under paddy in Vadakovanur is 1120 and in Thenkovanur it is 420. The former has 306 households (population, 1194) while the later has 408 (population, 1560). The average size of the household in each is 3 to 4 persons. Children upto six years are nearly 160 in each of these two villages. Both have a literacy rate of 81%. Vadakovanur has a middle school and Thenkovanur, a primary school. Children attend High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools either in Mannargudi, 8 kms away, or in Koothanallur, 4-5 kms away. Mannargudi has a Govt. college and also a private college with P.G. Departments. The population of the depressed classes in Vadakovanur is 48.49% while it is 65.51% in Thenkovanur village.

The CDC team spoke to the Panchayat Board presidents and to a few other persons in both the villages. The team could also see the layout of the villages and the formation of streets. Though there is no public transport, both villages have good roads connecting them to the nearby towns and buses can be had within 3kms of each village. Both have electricity, protected drinking water supply through street taps and also the public distribution system giving essentials to cardholders. In terms of rural infrastructure, coverage under the welfare schemes of the govt. the residents have very little to complain of. The team witnessed the villagers reporting for duty under the central government's scheme called the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

2016-2017

Extension Activity: Engaging with Local School Education

Subsequently, the CDC met the District Collector of Tiruvarur and some officers at the Collectorate on 27 June 2016. That was a productive meeting in which the officer in charge of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan promised to collaborate with us. It may be noted that "Education and Culture" is one of the thrust areas under "Human Development" envisaged by Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. On the suggestion officer from the District Collector, CDC has identified Punitha Jeyarakini Madha Middle School (P. J. M. M. School), at Pannaivalagam, near CUTN, which has a considerable strength of underprivileged students (especially SC students) as one that deserves academic engagement. From the 19th of August, 2016, the Department of English has been interacting with the students of class 8 of the school mentioned above by bringing them over to CUTN and assisting them in learning English and other soft skills. Based on the prescribed textbooks, the activities and exercises were prepared by the students of M.A. (CUTN) themselves. All the sessions have been conducted with the aid of ICT.

From its interaction with rural students, CUTN has a better understanding of rural educational needs. The social, economic and physical constraints of each household in its pursuit of education, the general strengths and weaknesses in the system of schooling, especially, pedagogy, and curriculum, and also those that are specific to schools are some of the issues that will require attention. To the extent possible rural people will have to be persuaded to invest more in education in order to increase enrolment and disincentivize dropping out.

On 21 April, 2017, Prof. Nirmal Selvamony, Chairperson of CDC, was invited to participate in the deliberations with the Chairman of the National Council of Rural Institutes, Prof. Soundara Pandiyan, Professor, Gandhigram Rural University, the Vice-Chancellor of CUTN and a few other officers of CUTN. The members recommended collaboration of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and CDC of CUTN, with the department of Social Work, Education, and other units such as the NSS to facilitate better community engagement.

2017-2018

To become part of the UBA Network, the National Coordinator of UBA has advised CUTN, in October, 2017, to identify a cluster of five villages in consultation with the district administration. In this regard, the Dean of Academics of CUTN and the Nodal Officer of UBA, CUTN, met the District Collector on 26 October, 2017, to identify the village cluster.

With CUTN's experience in interaction with villages and a rural school, it seeks to study the needs of the new village cluster and focus on a particular need that can be competently addressed by CUTN. CUTN is confident that its contribution to the social transformation envisaged by MHRD through Unnat Bharat Abhiyan will by no means be small.

GALLERY

2015-2016

Vadakovanur Village Panchayat Office - 28 January 2016



Vadakovanur School Children – 28 January 2016

2016-2017

Members of CDC, CUTN, Dr T Jayaraman, and Officers of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of the District Collectorate, Tiruvarur District – 27 June 2016



Dr Jayalakshmi, CUTN, Dr. T. Jayaraman, CUTN, Dr. Nirmal Selvamony, CUTN, Dr. Kumar, CUTN, and Officers of the District Collectorate, Thiruvarur, 27 June, 2016

**EXTENSION ACTIVITY AT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STUDIES
2016-2017**

**Dr. Nirmal Selvamony introduces to class VIII of PJMM School the academic session at
CUTN- 19 August 2016**



Dr. Nirmal Selvamony introduces to class VIII of PJMM School the academic session at CUTN- 19 August 2016



Students of class VIII of PJMM School introducing themselves – 19 August 2016



Deepapriya of class VIII of PJMM School is narrating a story – 19 August 2016