

## **Gramalaya - Tiruchirappalli**

### ***Annual Report for 2007 - 2008***

Gramalaya was established in 1987 with a group of committed youths in the field of rural development. Gramalaya got its legal entity by registering under the Indian Trust Act of 1882 with a registration number of 72/87 on 11.6.1987. Gramalaya is also registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act of 1976 and got the registration number of 076040126. Gramalaya started its activities in the remote rural areas of Thottiyam Block with its drinking water awareness campaign and watershed development project. The first one decade (1987 - 1997) was fully concentrated on awareness raising and community mobilization activities including provision of drinking water and sanitation facilities. In the next one decade (1997 - 2007), Gramalaya emerged as one of the leading organizations in the field of water and sanitation, health and economic empowerment of the target communities through women self-help groups' formation and training.

#### **Vision**

Gramalaya envisions a society wherein all people will have equal rights and access to protected water, sanitation, health and improved income status without gender discrimination.

#### **Mission**

Gramalaya will function as an NGO for promoting water, sanitation, hygiene and overall improvement of the rural, urban, coastal and tribal population in India thus working for the empowerment of the target communities especially the women, children and the marginalized sector.

#### **Projects Implemented in the Year 2007 - 2008**

##### **Community Initiatives through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme**

Under this project, a total of 90 Panchayats consisting 429 villages in three blocks of Tiruchirappalli district are covered with intensive hygiene, water and sanitation project activities. The project is implemented with the grant support from WaterAid, UK at a total outlay of Rs. 48,68,099/- The activities include construction of low-cost household latrines, provision of safe drinking water by

encouraging the communities to get household water connections and imparting hygiene education among the school children in 257 schools of Thottiyam, Thathaiengarpet and Thuraiyur Blocks. During the one year project period, a total of 18201 household latrines were constructed, 212 household water connections were provided, 5 hand pumps installed, 6 school toilets constructed, 100 RWH structures installed at households, 3528 kitchen gardens promoted, 121 soak pits formed and a number of training for capacity building of CBOs, women self-help groups, panchayat-level federation leaders were provided. A project advisory committee is formed to review the project works and offer guidance for better and smooth implementation of programme. There are 112 Villages which include 56 panchayats declared as open defecation free zones. As a follow up to the next phase of activities, during the next financial year, it was planned to cover the entire project area as 100% sanitation covered and declare the above three blocks as open defecation free (ODF) zones and to implement RWH systems at households, solid waste management systems adopted in one panchayat etc.



### Healthy Slums, Healthy City Project

The Healthy slums, Healthy City project is a prestigious project of Gramalaya which is supported by WaterAid, UK. This project is implemented in 186 approved slums and 75 unapproved slums of Tiruchirappalli City Corporation. So far 168 slums have been declared as ODF zones with the support of women self-help groups, WAVE federation and Tiruchi City Corporation. The past activities included under the project are renovation of community toilets in the slums, provision of child friendly toilet facilities, household



latrines connected with under ground drainage (UGD) system and supporting the community based organizations for enabling the slum dwellers for household water connections. The project is supported with a grant amount of Rs. 33, 60,369/- by WaterAid, UK. The funded activities include renovation of

existing community toilets, providing child friendly toilet facilities in the community toilet complex, formation of children self-help groups, strengthening and formation of women self-help groups, ward-level federation. During this project period, 20 Child friendly toilets constructed and 20 community toilets renovated. WASH training given to 1242 members and SWM training given to 1554 members. The City Corporation of Tiruchirappalli, elected representatives, women self-help groups are closely associating with this project in achieving the goal of Healthy City within the next financial year wherein the entire slums in the City Corporation limits will be declared as ODF zones.

### **WaterCredit for Urban Slum dwellers in Tiruchi City Corporation**

WaterCredit for Urban Slum dwellers in Tiruchi City Corporation is one the innovative project implemented with the grant support of WaterPartners International, USA. The project is supported to the tune of Rs.55, 00,000/- for three years phasing period. Under this project, micro-credit is provided to the



women self-help groups for construction of household toilets and water connections from the piped water supply system of Tiruchirappalli City Corporation. Under this project we got Institutional Development support from BASIX, Hyderabad like operational manual preparation, business plan preparation and handling of new software. During the financial period, a total of 319 loans for household toilet construction and 171 loans for individual water connections were provided from the revolving loan fund availed under this project. The loans are provided through women self-help groups after pre assessment and rating of women self-help groups. So far 118 SHGs were provided WaterCredit which ensure 100% recovery rate. The project is implemented on a pilot basis and implemented in India for the first time where

water and sanitation loans are provided for the above purpose through the women self-help groups. The project is being implemented with committed staffs in the field and with strong MIS for close tracking of the loans provided under WaterCredit. As of now, there is 100% repayment of the loans from the borrowers who got loans for water and sanitation facilities through the local women self-help groups.

### **Integrated water and sanitation programme under WPI - Kollapatti and Kothampatti villages**

The main objectives of the project include providing safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in Kollapatti and Kothampatti villages of Thuraiyur Block with capacity building of CBOs and sustainable water and sanitation promotion activities. Under this project 325 household toilets constructed, 31 drinking water connections provided, 163 kitchen gardens promoted, one school toilet renovated in Kothampatti, one new school toilet constructed in Kollapatti. 2 village water and sanitation committees formed in the above 2 villages and they are working for their village environment sanitation.



During the project period, participatory rural appraisal, village awareness camps, training to VWSCs, Exposure visit, Vermi compost trainings were completed. The important achievement was 300 toilets in 3 days. These activities were widely published in the local newspaper, where donor organization, local Government and NGOs working for

providing accessible water and sanitation facilities. The idea of WaterCredit was introduced in the above project villages which were proved as successful attempts through revolving fund concept supported by WPI, USA. The above two villages were announced as ODF panchayat during the project period.

### **Women Self-Help Groups and Micro-Credit Project**

Women self-help Groups are formed by Gramalaya in Thottiyam, Thathaiengarpet and Thuraiyur Blocks of Tiruchirappalli district with the

funding support of Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation Ltd., Chennai as a part of Mahalir Thittam project launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Gramalaya is an approved NGO of the Project Implementation Unit, Tiruchirappalli where training and group formation support is provided for strengthening and capacity building of SHGs in the above project areas. So far 2194 women self-help groups were formed in the rural project areas and 576 formed in the urban slums of Tiruchirappalli City Corporation. The training to women self-help groups include, Membership training, animators and representative training and EDP training for income generation activities.



Area	Total No.of Groups	No.of Groups with credit linkage during 2007-08	Total Loan Amount
Rural	2434	885	Rs.12,53,93,460
Urban	574	95	Rs.1,12,52,000

### National Institute of Water and Sanitation (NIWAS)

Gramalaya is running a training center at Kolakudipatti village of Thottiam Block in Tiruchirapalli Dist. The village communities such as SHG members,



federation leaders, village presidents, school teachers, school children etc., are being imparted with various training programs on watsan, skill development, entrepreneurship and other trainings required for the implementation of project activities. Similarly, the toilet technology center promoted in the training center attracted most of the

community in the surrounding villages, NGOs from Tamilnadu and other states, international agencies working on water and sanitation and they often used to

visit the toilet technology center to know the technology on low cost toilets for households, schools, community and children for both urban and rural community. So many agencies and NGOs are demanding trainings and other inputs in the field of water and sanitation for replicating the models created under low cost technology in their respective field. Every year around 200 – 300 visitors from other NGOs from different states, Government officials from other states and the center, elected representatives, visitors from international agencies are also visiting our project areas of urban and rural and get exposed to our work. It includes UNICEF team comprising Nepal, Bangladesh, Sudan and China, state level project officers and coordinators from Plan International, Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, City Bank, USA, World Bank, other NGOs like Exnora and Sulabh International. Students from different colleges used to undergo project studies in the field of community organizations and their involvement in water and sanitation sector. The demand for training on WATSAN sector could not be fulfilled due to inadequate training centers with infrastructure and dormitory facilities.

Hence Gramalaya established National Level Resource Center for Water and Sanitation. The resource center will have facilities like library on water and sanitation for the visitors, online technical support on watsan sector, internet connectivity with links to national and international agencies working on water and sanitation, in-house training facilities with accommodation and boarding.



Arghyam, one of the agencies based in Bangalore has supported with Rs.5, 00,000/- as grant for establishing Training cum Resource Center at Gramalaya Toilet Training Center in kolakudipatti village. The support is extended for building a hall, computer and printer with internet facilities. This center will not only just provide training and

technical support but also will link the field experiences from grass root to global level. WPI sanctioned Rs.14, 20,722/- (US \$ 30000) for resource centre with all infrastructures. The resource centre construction was completed and NIWAS was inaugurated by Minister of Forests Mr.N.Selvaraj, District Collector

Mr.T.Soundaiah and Thottiyam MLA Mr. Rajasekaran. Ms.Michaela Michael from WPI, USA and Ms.Sunita Nadhamuni from Arghyam participated in the programme.

## Gramalaya Urban and Rural Development Initiatives and Network

In Indian scenario, several micro credit institutions, micro finance institutions, money lenders are in the field of micro credit operations among the poor both in rural and urban for several livelihood promotion activities. But, no MFI in India came forward for lending operations for the creation of infrastructures on water and sanitation among the urban slum dwellers and rural poor as it seems to be impractical by these institutions and none can take



risk on these. Under such circumstances, Gramalaya, took initiatives through different financial mechanisms that have been attempted in the past to address financial accessibility of water and sanitation services in rural villages under WaterPartners International, USA and the outcome of credit operations are



encouraging. The importance of improving financial accessibility to the poor, in order to pay for basic services needs proper lending mechanism through MFIs. This can be accomplished by creating an enabling environment that includes basics elements such as easy access to individual water and sanitation facilities through water credit at lower interest rates and also involving credible microfinance institutions in the process. The importance of developing capacity needs to perform support services on technologies, connections on

drinking water lines, under ground sewerage lines, operation and maintenance for total utilities of the infrastructures created.

Gramalaya, was involved in lending operations for water and sanitation in rural in several villages for more than 5 years under revolving fund supported by Water Partners Internationals, USA, and one year in urban slums of Tiruchirapalli City Corporation, have gained experience and confidence on prompt repayment from the beneficiaries under water credit. In rural, about Rs.45 lakhs are revolved for creating individual water connections and toilets. Similarly, in urban, a sum of Rs.44.71 lakhs are revolved for individual WATSAN facilities to 490 members. WaterPartners International had also supported with Institutional Development Services to the core staff of Gramalaya through BASIX, Hyderabad, an MFI engaged in micro credit operations and shared its experiences in lending processes through various workshops, trainings, exposure visits to field areas where they successfully carried out lending business. This would make it interest to start MFI for water credit especially for rural and urban poor. Under these context, with its field experience and staff's expertise in the field of micro credit, Gramalaya Urban And Rural Development Initiatives And Network (G.U.A.R.D.I.A.N) was established with financial interventions to the rural and urban poor with ulterior motive to extend credit facilities through micro finance for easy access to household drinking water connections and household toilets on their own through affordable interest rates and repayment with easy installments and thereby improve their quality of life in terms of water, health, hygiene and sanitation towards social empowerment. Operational manual and business plan had already been prepared. Guardian started their lending operations on water credit by mobilizing Rs.1.75 crores from IOB, Thottiyam and disbursed to 2538 beneficiaries through SHGs. Guardian linked with HDFC bank and disbursed Rs. 1,99,30,000/- crores to 151 SHGs . Guardian has prepared strategic plan for 2008 - 2012 in a phased manner to reach the entire aspiring community in Tamilnadu. The commencement of business would start as soon as the receipt of license from the Registrar of Companies. In the mean time, demand assessment, demand creation and collection of applications for different loan products are in progress with the limited staff attached to Guardian.



## Sustainable WASH Initiatives through PRIs and Women Federation



The prime objective of the project is to increase the capability of community based organizations which would result in participation and management of water and sanitation related programmes through PRI's and women federation. This project which envisages provision of water, water sources management and maintenance of assets to be

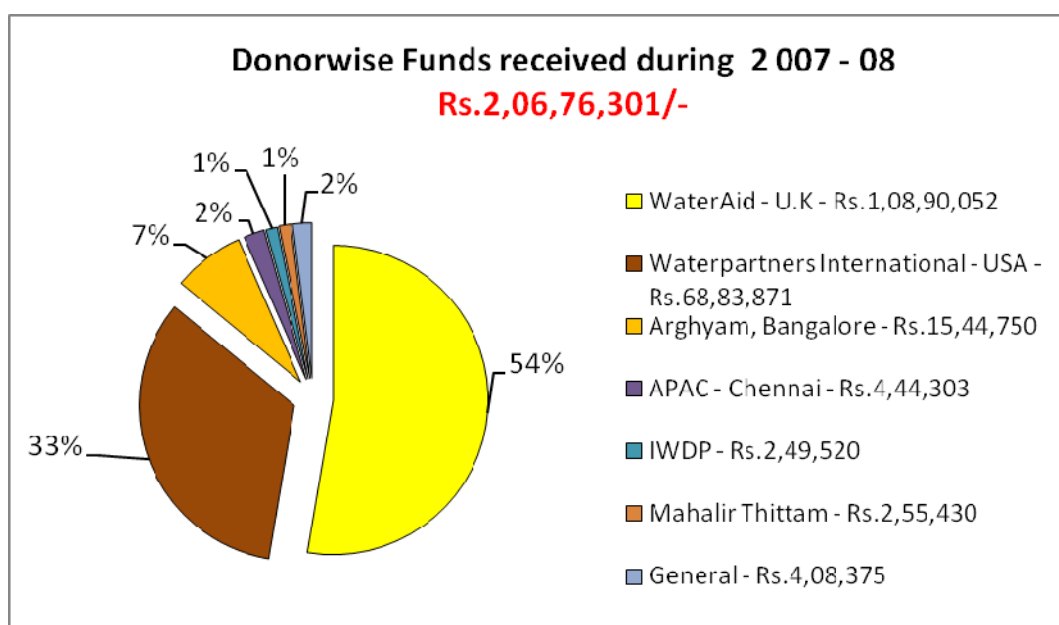
implemented with the active co-operation of the panchayat level federation and panchayat raj institution in the 28 panchayats in Thottiyam Block of Tiruchirapalli District with the funding support of Rs. 23, 37,000/- by Arghyam, Bangalore. During this project, 22 panchayats announced as ODF, 27 RWH systems promoted in community buildings, 26 Vermi compost units established, 56 awareness programmes conducted, BLS conducted, trainings provided to OHT operators, PRIs, capacity building to federation are completed. One project advisory committee formed in Thottiyam Block and the committee was took effort on 100 % toilet coverage, conducting campaign, awareness creation etc.

## WATSAN Initiatives through WAVE federation in T.Pet and Thuraiyur Block

Under this project provision of protected water, water resources management, household toilet construction are implemented with the active co-operation of the panchayat level federations and panchayat raj institutions in 27 panchayats in Thatheingarpet Block and 35 panchayats in Thuraiyur Block of Tiruchirapalli District. During this project period, so many activities are done like WATSAN survey, 124 awareness camps, PLF



leaders training, Toilet campaign, Hand washing campaign, Project Advisory committee formation, NIWAS construction, RWH training, Exposure visits, PRIs training , SWM training etc. In this project 9643 toilets constructed and 839 household water connections provided. Gramalaya has constructed toilets in Thatheingarpet and Thuraiyur Blocks through SHG internal savings, bank loans, Guardian loan and Government subsidy. During this project, Gramalaya mobilized Rs. 2, 60, 69,357/- from various sources for toilet construction. Toilet campaign and Hand washing campaigns are conducted in the above 2 blocks for awareness creation and PRIs, PLFs have extended their support for the campaigns.



Date: 30.07.08

J.Geetha

Place: Tiruchirapalli-18

Executive Director