



HAND IN HAND INDIA

Regn.No.515/2010

Village Upliftment Programme 3-Month Report

Koppampatty, Pudukottai district, Tamil Nadu, India



VUP launch with community gathering

Submitted to:

**Hoist AB,
Box 6074
Solna, Sweden**

By:

**Hand in Hand India
July 2013**



Introduction

Thank you for your generous donation to Hand in Hand India to support the Village Upliftment Programme. The programme implements activities that fall under Hand in Hand India's five focus areas:

1. Women's Empowerment Programme/Job creation
2. Child Labour Elimination & Education
3. Citizens' Centres
4. Health
5. Environment

We are pleased to present to you the 3-month report.

Selection of Panchayat ¹

Village Panchayat Selected

Name: Koppampatty
Block: Kunnandarkoil
District: Pudukkottai

Koppampatty is a Panchayat located in Kunnandarkoil block of Pudukkottai district. Agriculture is the main occupation. To boost income and strengthen local businesses Hand in Hand India will mobilize women and provide adult literacy and entrepreneurship training in combination with microfinance loans. Additionally, vocational training will be provided to those who require it. 100% of the village children must be enrolled and retained in school. The village is totally unaware of sanitation and environment issues. These are some reasons why this Panchayat was selected for your VUP project.

In order to work in a panchayat, Hand in Hand India must be assured of support from the local government (Panchayat) president and the villagers. We spoke to the villagers and was assured of support from the local community members and elected representative. Hand in Hand India believes that it is critical to build the capacity of the community to understand priorities and articulate its needs to local government.

Launch of VUP

The VUP project in the Panchayat was launched at a programme where the entire community gathered in the village square. All Hand in Hand India activities were displayed at stalls through posters, models, pamphlets etc.

¹ Panchayat is a smallest unit of local self governance.

At the end of this, a cultural show was organized to explain our five-pillar activities. Dances, plays, etc. were organized to describe the social problems in which Hand in Hand India makes a positive intervention.

MoU Signing

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Hand in Hand India, the Panchayat President (the elected leader of the village), and the self-help group members promoted by Hand in Hand India. The MoU symbolizes a commitment by both the local government and Hand in Hand India to work together.

Formation of Village Development Committee (VDC)

To implement the programme effectively, Hand in Hand India focuses on strengthening grassroots democracy, increasing community ownership, and ensuring programme sustainability. Hand in Hand India believes that all outcomes can be achieved by involving the community starting from the planning stage. Hence, we work closely with the community and Panchayat leaders as key stakeholders.

To facilitate this, a Village Development Committee (VDC) is established. Members of the VDC consist of self-help group members, village youth, government officials etc., and the Panchayat leader is the VDC advisor.

The VDC members will be oriented on their roles and responsibilities to uplift the village in partnering with Hand in Hand India. The first meeting will be facilitated by Hand in Hand India to do a need assessment of the village. The needs shall be classified as those that can be met by the local Panchayat, directly by Hand in Hand India and for which Hand in Hand India can represent the community when approaching the government.

Future Reports

The next progress report will be a 6-month report that will be sent to you in October 2013. Subsequently, we will submit reports in April 2014, October 2014 and April 2015.

Once again, we would like to thank you for wanting to create change in the life of the poorest of the poor by supporting Hand in Hand India. Should you have any questions, please contact me at sandip.mookerjee@hihindia.org or +91 9500041800



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Creating awareness through Kiosks on HiH's five pillar activities



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Presenting the MoU to the elected body



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VUP information board along with community and panchayat president



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Project location (Approximate)

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