Women who had free surgery done under TNHSP

Every tribal gets free in-patient treatment now! [read on]

Highlights

- TN Govt introduces free in-patient care for tribals.
- Field clinics begin in Kalrayan Hills, good response
- Craftmark certification for Porgai products
- SOFA gets good profits for organic products
- Old age insurance a success, producer groups included
- THI staff learn street theatre to spread awareness

Last year, the Govt announced the Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project (TNHSP) under which every tribal could avail free in-patient treatment. The collaborative project began in November last year and has already seen more tribals availing treatment than before. We are seeing people from villages we have not heard of before in the Kalrayan Hills.

This cashless transaction is one of the best examples of public-private partnerships. Already, we had had nearly 400 tribals availing treatment under this project, incurring a total expense of Rs 5.77 lakh.

Tamilselvi, from the Kalrayan Hills was referred to Salem during her pregnancy after the PHC found that she was going to be having triplets and that one baby was deformed. During one of our field clinics we came across her again in her village but found out that her husband and relatives were not keen to go, not understanding the seriousness of her condition. With much persuasion by Kannagi, our Health Auxiliary, and the THI team, she came to the Tribal Hospital to have her babies. She had a Caeserian section and stayed till she and her babies were well. Tamilselvi could afford to do so because she did not have to pay a single paisa for her hospital care.
Some things new, other things old:

All of last year, we were involved in training 16 health auxiliaries from remote villages up in the Kalrayan Hills. The training completed, we have begun field clinics up there. Initially the tribals there, in many ways, much more isolated than those in the Sittilingi Valley, remained wary of us. But the proverbial ice has been broken and the response to our staff has been phenomenally encouraging.

The old age insurance scheme continues this year as well. Out of the expenses of Rs.1.4 lakhs, only Rs. 15,000 came from their premiums. The rest was taken from generous contributions from the FOS. HelpAge now supports this successful program.

We have extended the scheme to also include our farmer and craft producer groups with an yearly premium of Rs.100. The scheme started very recently and has met with a good response.

Almost a decade ago, we adopted the health auxiliary model, wherein one older woman trained for each village in basic health care. This successful model is replicated in the hills as well. In the Sittilingi valley we feel however that there is more scope for improvement and the model is now being revamped to include community development also.

Greener, healthier fields: The Farming Initiative

Last year we received the organic SCOPE certification for our SOFA farming group. This has greatly increased the value of our products in the market.

We had difficulty in finding buyers for bulk purchase of turmeric. Considering the certificate, this year an exporter group bought ten tons of turmeric, worth around Rs 15 lakh, from our farmers. The Farmers society did well this year and made a profit of about Rs 1.5 lakh.

During the year, we held two training programs for farmers with Nammalvar and Sundar Raman as the resource persons.

Tribal Health Initiative started working in Sittilingi valley of Dharmapuri Dist of Tamil Nadu 17 years ago. We now have a Base Hospital which caters to more than 1 lakh, most of whom are tribals. We also run a comprehensive development program for about 18,000 tribals who dwell in 35 settlements.

Our vision is that the people of Sittilingi valley and Kalrayan Hills lead a better quality of life

➢ To attain the highest possible level of holistic health.
➢ To enhance their socio-economic status while retaining their pride, self-respect and self-reliance and ensuring their active participation in programs meant for their welfare.
➢ To create an atmosphere highly conducive for the growth and development of local cultures and customs.

Threads of many colours: The Craft Initiative

We were given the Craftmark certification this year, increasing the market value of our products.

The sales of products are gradually increasing every year as well as the number of artisans. Our designers have come out with a new range of designs and products which has helped us increase our sales. But we have a long
way to go to ensure regular employment to all the artisans during the months when there is no agriculture. For this to happen, it is very crucial at this point that Porgai needs hand holding and financial support for the next 3 years.

We remain committed to preserving and developing the traditional Lambadi hand embroidery in the region. Towards this end, we are collecting and preserving old embroidered patches from Lambadi families in the neighbouring districts.

More skills for tribal youth – the Technology Initiative:

Regular training programs are being conducted at our Technical Training Institute. This included short courses in welding, electrical wiring, motor rewinding, metallic fabrication and new methods of making soil cement blocks. We have been using a grant from the DST to create awareness among the villagers regarding scientific farming and traditional storage structures. The use of the pedal water pump and the cono-weeder was taught and the workshop trained to fabricate it themselves. This reduces the dependence on electrical/diesel power pump usage for the farmer as well as less labour for weeding in rice cultivation. We are also developing a low cost solar dryer for fruit preservation.

This and That:

The staff of THI also got trained in street theatre this year. A ten-day workshop led to the development of two plays, one on organic farming and another on ante-natal care. We staged one play and were met with very enthusiastic and receptive crowds.

We also got ourselves a new building extension which now houses the scanning section and the pharmacy. Two new junior doctors have joined us as well. We have restarted the medical elective program for students from the UK through a partnership with Skillshare.

The Tribal Hospital has adopted SOP [standard operating procedures] and treatment protocols system for its work. This will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of hospital care. In future we wish to go in for certification of the hospital too.

New equipment was donated by ATMA [American Tamil Medical Assn] and the World Bank.

“Your insight, leadership and ideology in building an ideal society and way of life is so successful”

Kit Kitatani [group leader of advocacy group from Japan]
Plans for next year:

- Revamping the health auxiliary model in the Sittilingi Valley.
- Active promotion of rain-fed agricultural methods in the villages.
- Supporting traditional cattle rearing in the region.
- Make a foray into mental health.
- Explore retail opportunities for Porgai products and increase sales.
- Increasing the variety and number of technical trainings

Thank you

The progress of our initiatives and the further improvement of the tribal society would not have been possible without the constant encouragement and steady support of BCF, SKI, TNHSP, AID, ASHA, DST, Helpage, MMKCT, NCRI, SHARE, and FOS (India and UK). We are deeply grateful to them for helping us make a difference.

Thank you everyone

Team THI

To visit or contact us

TRIBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

Sittilingi, Dharmapuri dist., Tamil Nadu 636 906

phone:: 04346-299061 / 299025;
email: office@tribalhealth.org; website: www.tribalhealth.org

Registered Public Charitable Trust No. 147/92, Dindigul, Regd u/s 12A & 80G of the IT Act, Regd under FCRA to accept Foreign Donations

Friends of Sittilingi (FOS) remain our most dedicated well wishers. We deeply thank all those who have given us unflawing support and look forward to their continuing encouragement. Do join in as a FOS to help make a difference in a tribal’s life

YES, I want to be a part of the change in Sittilingi

I would like to donate

- for Health: For supplying free medicines during the field clinics
- for Farming: for revolving loans to buy traditional cattle to improve organic farming
- for Livelihood: for ensuring employment of women in the Porgai program
- for any other purpose you see fit.

Cheques/DD may be made in the head ‘TRIBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE’, payable at SBI, Kotapatty or ICICI Bank, Salem

All donations benefit from Income tax exemption u/s 80G

Online donations from India are convenient for us...

ICICI Bank [a/c no. 611901076914 IFS code ICIC0006119];

State Bank of India [a/c no 11689302723 IFS code SBIN0006244]

[Do send an email after transferring the donation]
Looking at Fundamentals
Financial Details

We follow transparency in our work and accounts as part of Credibility Alliance.

Income & Expenditure

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<thead>
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<th>2010-2011</th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Income</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Indian sources</td>
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<td>International sources</td>
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<td>Shortage of Income over Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Expenditure

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings &amp; Travel</td>
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<td>Admin expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Balance Sheet

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<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Capital Fund (-)</td>
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<td>Deposits &amp; Advance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Bank balance</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2009-2010</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td>Capital grant for assets</td>
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<td>Corpus fund</td>
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<td>Capital fund</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>13326390</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Auditor: Mr. K. Shivakumar, Gandhigram, TN 624 302
Bankers: SBI, Kotapatty, ICICI Salem

detailed auditted accounts available on request

Team THI
2 Doctors
15 Health Workers
3 Admin staff
3 Community Workers
4 Para-medical staff
1 Community Co-ordinator
40 Health auxiliaries

Salaries Break Up

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<th>Salary Range</th>
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<td>3000 - 5000</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>5000 - 10000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>10000 - 15000</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>above 15000</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28</td>
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</tbody>
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Dr. Regi & Dr. Lalitha draw salaries as doctors in the hospital
Highest salary - Rs. 28000 [senior doctor]
Lowest salary - Rs. 3000 [fresh appointee]

Board of Trustees
Dr. Regi M George
Dr. Lalitha Regi
Prof. M. Ravindran
Dr. Sara Bhattacharji
Dr. Indru Tupulur
Prof. N. Kamalamma
Dr. Sukanya Rangamani
Mr. A. Arun
Dr. Guru Nagarajan

Board of Trustees meets twice a year to discuss policies.
Executive Committee meets every 3 months to review work and make decisions.
Full Staff meetings every month to plan day-to-day activities.
International Travel: No international travel was done by anyone during this period.

"Traveller, there is no path. Paths are made by walking."