

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, SHIFT II



RURAL CAMP REPORT 2017 (NOV 22 – DEC 01)
VEDANDHAVADI, THIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT

LOGO AND THEME OF THE CAMP



"We have a duty to care for the environment." Lailah Gifty Akita,

INTRODUCTION

The rural camp is part of Social Work which gives practical knowledge and it help us to work effectively with the people. The rural camp, which was organized by the department of Social Work, provided an opportunity to the students to gain practical skills and be exposed to the rural areas. The students from the Department of Social Work, Shift II, Loyola College, Chennai were opted Vedanthavadi Village in Tiruvannamalai District for their Rural Cultural Field Study. The camp was held from 22nd November to 01st December 2017.

OBJECTIVES OF THE RURAL CAMP






- a.** To explore rural life.
- b.** To experience group and community living.
- c.** To understand and identify the difficulties faced by the rural community.
- d.** To love the nature and eco system
- e.** To create good bonding between the students and the villagers.
- f.** To help the students to develop capacities and attitudes by involving in planning, decision making organizing and evaluations.
- g.** To explore our strengths and weakness.

- h.** Delegation of work in the camp site in the form of task groups like cooking, cleaning utensils, manual work groups, etc.
- i.** To strengthen interpersonal relationship among the students in the team.

PRE - CAMP PREPARATIONS

With the guidance of faculties, students gathered a number of times to fix the place for rural camp, to plan for the camp etc. Abraham Mathew and Cecily Davakribai voluntarily came forward and took leadership of the Rural Camp. Prof. Vallary Patric and Prof. Simon Joseph were the faculty in-charge for the camp.

Need Pre-Camp Preparations

-  To elect the camp leaders
-  To select the place for rural camp
-  To form the committees
-  To place each student in each committee according to their taste and interest
-  To make a frame work for the rural camp

COMMITTEES

There were seven committees involved in rural camp to make the camp ease. Roles and responsibilities of each committee are as below.

Finance Committee [Kaushik (L), Nivedha, L Chandru & Madhurabhashini]

- ✚ To prepare budget for the rural camp
- ✚ To coordinate with other committees and allot funds accordingly
- ✚ To mobilize funds from the students

Program Committee [Vershella (L), Nirmal, Ninisha, Anne Ramya, Rathna, Dorothy, Merin, Siva, & Sandhya]

- ✚ To prepare a schedule for all the 10 days
- ✚ Framing a theme for the rural camp
- ✚ To make the students get involved in cultural events
- ✚ To prepare questionnaires for the survey
- ✚ To conduct sports and other competitions for the various groups in the village
- ✚ To arrange resource persons for input sessions

Manual Committee [Venkat (L), Fr. Valan. Fr. Samikannu, Nivetha S, Krithika, Benjamin & Manglenlal]

- ✚ To identify place for manual work at the village

- ✚ To ensure the availability of equipment's to carry out manual work
- ✚ To allot work among the students on rotation basis

Transportation and Accommodation [Choudhry (L), Arunilka, Antony Swetha Rani & Amul Cyril]

- ✚ To arrange transport for the students and the faculties to reach the spot
- ✚ To ensure the accommodation facilities
- ✚ To arrange transportation facility during the camp, if necessary

Food committee [Michell (L), Allan. Fr. Jayaraj, Iniyan, Sasha, Felicia, Rex & Hema]

- ✚ Allocating menu for all the 10 days-3meals.
- ✚ To ensure the availability of provisions.
- ✚ To assist the cook on rotation basis
- ✚ Ensure zero level wastage

Documentation Committee [Fr. Thomas (L), Shaleen, Nahli, Abhinaya & Beno]

- ✚ To prepare a report of each day
- ✚ To collect photos and videos of the programs, community visits etc

- ✚ To prepare a task groups for the smooth functioning of each day activities

First -Aid Committee [Annie Ruth (L), Febila & Jaibim]

- ✚ To provide medical assistance in need
- ✚ To ensure the availability of medicines and first-aid box

TASK GROUPS

The students were divided into six groups and allotted tasks such as cooking, cleaning and washing utensils, cleaning the hall and work place, manual work, organizing committee, and prayer & exercise. In this manner, the work will be delegated to all the students who get an opportunity to do all the tasks. Documentation committee was responsible for the division of groups and they used roaster method to delegate work to its members.

PILOT VISITS

The committee members decided to make a Pilot visit to know more about the villages. This feasible visit will help us to finalize the place. Camp facilitators and a few committee members visited suggested places and made a study on that. Second, general body meeting was conducted on 06/10/2017 in the presence of Prof. Vallary and Prof. Simon. The team leaders explained about the Pilot visits they

made and we decided to concentrate the rural camp at Vedanthavadi, Tiruvannamalai District. The camp leaders and representatives of committee heads along with one of the faculty in- charges – Prof. Vallary Patric visited the camp sight to make a feasible study on the village. They assured that the village will satisfy the objectives of the rural camp.

SPECIALITY OF THE PLACE

1. Place: Vedandhavadi, Tiruvannamalai Dt
2. Journey hours: 5.30 hrs – 6 hrs
3. Community Based Organization: Gram Makkal Sangam
4. Agricultural sector and agriculture allied occupation
5. 500 + families in the village
6. Bank, post office & ATM facilities
7. A PHC to health needs of the village community
8. A Government Primary and High school to educational needs of the village
9. Transport facility-
10. Caste discrimination is prevalent
11. Women very submissive and exploited by man folk
12. Toilet facilities nil, only open defecation

POSITIVE OBSERVATIONS

1. Hard working people
2. Formal education in big number hail and healthy
3. Consume natural food, organic products
4. Simple living and high united feeling among families

VEDANTHAVADI VILLAGE

Vedanthavadi is a village in Thurinjipuram Block in Thiruvannamalai District of Tamil Nadu State. It is situated 160 Km away from State Capital Chennai. All are tamil speaking people and it is an agrarian society. This village belongs to the Kilpennathur Assembly Constituency and Thiruvannamalai Parliament Constituency. K. Pitchandi is the present MLA and R Vanaroja is the current MP of this locality.

VEDANTHAVADI: 2011 CENSUS DETAILS

Census Parameter	Census Data
Total Population	4734
Total No of Houses	1203
Female Population	50.4% (2386)
Total Literacy rate	66.1% (3129)
Female Literacy Rate	28.8% (1362)
Scheduled Tribe Population	0.0%
Scheduled Caste Population	19.5% (923)
Working Population	60.2%
Child (0-6) population by 2011	485
Girl Child (0-6) Population by 2011	45.6% (221)

TENTATIVE TIME SCHEDULE OF RURAL CAMP

Sl. No	Time	Programme
01	5am	Rising
02	6 – 7 am	Prayer/ meditation/ yoga
03	7 – 9 am	Manual Work
04	9 – 10am	Breakfast/ Cleaning/ bathing
05	10 – 1 pm	Input session
06	1 – 2pm	Lunch
07	2 – 4 pm	Cultural Programme practice
08	4 – 7.30	Village visits
09	7.30 -	Dinner/ evaluation/ feedback/ rest

WELCOME BY THE VILLAGERS

On 22nd November 2017, the students and faculties reached the destination by 8pm. Vedanthavadi villagers welcomed us with beautiful parai music followed by cake cutting. Parai is not just an instrument, it is Tamilian's identity: and hence they proved it. This clearly shows love towards their culture and also expresses their happiness of our presence in the community.



INAUGURAL FUNCTION

We organized an inaugural function to make the people know the purpose of our visit and the presence in the village. This program helped to create a good rapport between the community and the students, many cultural programs were conducted. The main objective of this event was to create a bond with the community. Panchayath President, sub inspector of police – Mangalam, head master Government Primary School and local leaders were speaking about the camp and they assured their cooperation to the rural camp.



PRAYER, YOGA AND EXERCISE

To refresh our mind and body, every day we had morning prayer, yoga practice and exercises. Morning prayer was based on a secular way followed by yoga and exercise by the students. This helped the students to be active, vibrant throughout the day

MANUAL WORK

- The objective of manual work was to expose students to the hardship of physical work involved in the informal sector.
- To make the students realize the fruits of farming.



- Cleaning the surrounding of the community hall (place of stay for the boys).
- Sapling plantation.
- Cleaning the ICDS Centre (Balwadi)

INPUT SESSION

We had four input sessions during our rural camp. All the sessions were based on activities and interactive modes. The resource persons were Mr. Ezhumalai, Mr. Rajendran, Mr. Sagayam Emmanuel and Mr. Abinesh. And also, we had a news analysis session under the guidance of Prof Simon Joseph

Session I

Leadership Qualities by Mr. Ezhumalai Mr. Ezhumalai dealt with the topic on leadership qualities. A social worker should lead the society. So, he/she should be a good leader and a guide. Therefore, students of social work should acquire leadership qualities during their formation period.



Session II

Organic Farming by Mr. Rajendran

Mr. Rajendran is an organic farmer promoting the qualities of organic farming. He shared his success story in the field of farming. He faced lot of problems, but he overcame all the problems. Now, the villagers are approaching him to get sufficient knowledge on organic farming. He is producing paddy without using fertilizers and chemicals.

Session III

Rural Migration by Mr. Sahaya Emmanuel

Mr. Sahaya Emmanuel spoke about rural and international migration. He told migration involves two aspects: Internal Migration and external migration and he touched few points on internal migration. How internal migration affects the families of the migrants, what are the issues he must face, how money value affects the life of the migrants etc were the main topics of the discussion. He referred to a few cases which he has handled for further understanding.

Session IV

Community Development by Mr. Abinash

Mr. Abinash spoke about community development. He began with developing our economy, political structure, health, environment etc. He explained how to identify a problem and

how to solve the problems. He also added that need analysis is the starting point of community development.

Session V

News Analysis done by the students

The students were given article on sustainable development and they were asked to analyze and present it.

ORGANIC FARM VISIT



The students had got an opportunity to visit a farm called THEDAL. Mr. Manivanan is the founder of the organic farm. He shared his views about organic farming and its techniques. He states that in his farm he uses waste in a more productive way. Through organic farming one can sustain the health of the soil, the eco-system and the people around. Organic farming also improves the standard of living of the farmers. His farm consists of poultry, fish, geese, turkeys, and trees like mosumbi, mangoes, pomegranate, lemon and some Ayurvedic plants etc. The purpose of the visit was to see the methods and techniques of organic farming in practice.

HOSPITALITY EXTENDED THE PRIMARY SCHOOL HEAD MASTER

On 29th November, Mr. Ravi, Head Master of Government Primary School, Vedanthavadi arranged a traditional breakfast for all the students and faculties in the school as a token of gratitude and appreciation. This school is one of the best schools in the Vedanthavadi District and achieved many awards. This shows the dedication of HM and teachers towards the school. Our students spent few minutes with the school children and each day interacted with them. They distributed sweets to the children and teachers.

MOBILIZING THE PEOPLE

The students went around the village to gather the villagers for the cultural programme. Children and youth in the village accompanied the students.



CULTURAL PRACTICE AND PROGRAMS

The students organized cultural programs on 26th, November in front of the Samudayanalakkoodam, where all the villagers have been invited through Parai music, home visits etc. students expressed their talents through dance, songs, and street plays. The themes were based on women empowerment and sanitation. The main objective of this program is to create awareness on sanitation and women empowerment among people. Finally, prizes were distributed for all the winners of sports and games, Kolam and cooking competitions. The important thing is that few villagers shared their thought about their village, especially on the studies of girl children. Youngsters in the village assured that they will bring social changes in their community. Through the cultural program, students created a good bonding between them and the community.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CULTURAL PROGRAM

- a. The main focus of the cultural programmes was to create awareness in the rural community.
- b. To convey a social message that would create an impact in the community and the people around.
- c. The various cultural programmes were folk dance, folk song and street plays.

- d. To enlighten the villagers and impart knowledge on issues like woman empowerment, sanitation and importance of education.



VISIT BY THE COLLEGE OFFICIALS

A visit was made by college officials to the camp site on 30th of November. Dr. Fathima Vasanth -Deputy Principal of our college- accompanied by Dr Prof D. John Paul, Coordinator of Shift II, Department of Social Work. They interacted with the trainees, assessed our learning, our strength and area for improvement. They motivated and encouraged us to do our rural camp in a better way.

TEMPLE FESTIVAL

The village leaders invited us to participate in the temple festival in the village on the occasion of devoting their newly built temple to their Devotee.

SURVEY

Survey was carried out by the student to gather information about the village. The students were divided into four groups and each group focused on specific areas. The aspects selected by the student were social, economic, education, politics, health, culture and religion etc.

CASTE SYSTEM

Caste plays an important role in the community. The high caste and lower caste people live in separate communities. In Mettutheru, most of the people belong to high caste and in Pallatheru, occupied by low caste community. The division of caste leads to dehumanization. Schools, banks etc. are situating in Mettutheru. Families belonging to these castes do not interact except come together for common village festival. But the present youngsters are trying to break this caste issues.

According to the survey report

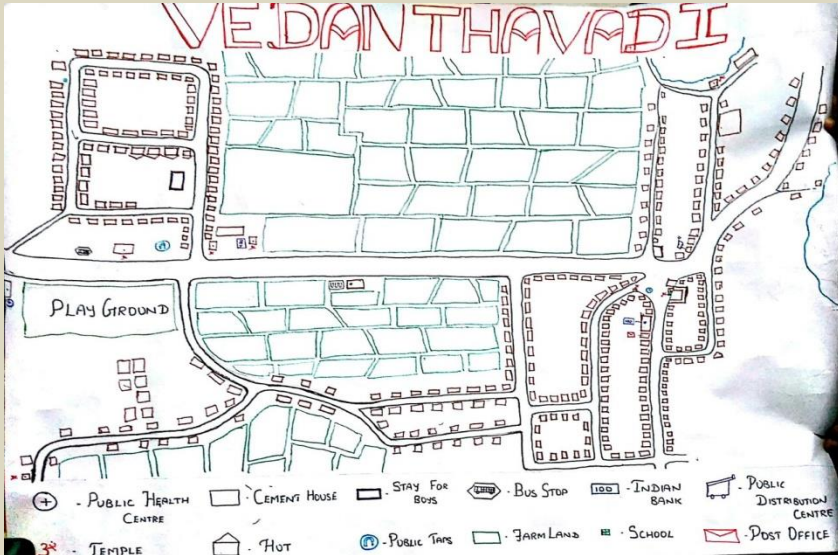
- 97.3% of the village owned a house
- 80.1% of the village have their own land

- 51.1% of the farmer use traditional method of agriculture
- 29.9% of village are illiterate
- The various source of income is through agriculture and 41.1% of village are involved
- 47.1% of people use common tap water
- 63.2% of people live in cement type of house
- 73.5% of the people have no toilets in their houses
- 72.7% of the people have television at their home
- 49.7% of the people have taken loan
- 62.5% of the village have no health issues

THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN THE VILLAGE

- ❖ Schools
- ❖ ICDS centre
- ❖ Bank
- ❖ Water tanks
- ❖ Wells
- ❖ Ponds
- ❖ Water pumps
- ❖ Playgrounds
- ❖ Taps for water supply

RESOURCE MAPPING



REVIEW

- The purpose of the review was to know our strength and the area to improve
- The review was conducted to analyse the overall work done by the student for the day
- The students were honest with their feedback, multitasking, informal leaders, delegation of responsibilities, facing challenges, facilities optimal, conflict resolution, were some of our strength,
- The students developed good inter personal relationship and living together helped them to learn about each other in a better way.

VALEDICTION

Valediction was held on 1st December 2017, inside the community hall. Students invited the villagers and guests for the valedictory function. Special invitees were Mr. Ravi (HM of Government Primary School, Vedanthavadi), Mr Simon (alumnae of Loyola College-through him we came to know this place), Mr. Ezhumalai (local youth leader and our guide) and one of the SHG leaders. They expressed their happiness for the students' activities in the community. We honoured the guests with mementos for their constant support and care. Students sang the theme song of the rural camp followed by various cultural programs. We thanked all member of the village for their love and affection, care and concern etc.

Photo Gallery



We are Ready



Vedanthavadi Village



Parai Practice



Reception by the Villagers



Kolam Competition



Input Sessions



Manuel Work



Planting of Saplings

Permission Letter Submitted to the Police Inspector

அனுப்புகள்

23.11.2017.

சீதே பண்ணித் தலைவர்
இனெயர் தாலுகா,
நெல்லை.

பொருள்கள் உயர்நிலை சாவல்தலைவர் அலுவலகம்
(அவர்கள்)
வேந்தவாடி, திருவெண்கையிலுள்ள பட்டினம்

யுள் அங்கத்தினர் அலுவலகம்

சீதே பண்ணித் தலைவர் சீதே பண்ணித் தலைவர்
காலநிலை மாற்றத்தால், சீதே பண்ணித் தலைவர்
பயிற்சலுகை. சீதே பண்ணித் தலைவர் சீதே பண்ணித் தலைவர்
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சீதே பண்ணித் தலைவர், நெல்லை

Theme Song

நினைவாளர் வளர்ச்சியை உறுதிப்படுத்துவதற்காக
 திரும்புகோம் வேலாற்றுவாய் - 2017
 சமூக பணிக் குறைவு கொண்டுவர கல்லுறவி
 அகற்றினார்.
 திரும்பும் பாடல் (Theme Song)

வேலாற்றுவாய் மக்களே... (3) } (2)
 உழைக்கும் மக்களே.

மீறா பகவா கண் அழிச்சி
 உழைக்கிறீங்க மக்களே (3)

உறுதியை போக்க வேண்டும் } (2)
 வளமுடனே வாய் வேண்டும்

சமூகநீதியை அகற்ற வேண்டும் } (2)
 பாடுபாடு சூழிய வேண்டும்

வேலாற்றுவாய் மக்களே... (3) } (2)
 உழைக்கும் மக்களே

அவசியம் பண்ணுவோம் அவசியம் பண்ணுவோம், அவசியம்
 பண்ணுவோம்

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மனிதனையும் சுவாசிக்காதே, மக்களையும் சுவாசிக்காதே
 சிந்தனைக்கு அகற்றுவோம்
 நினைவாளர் வளர்ச்சிக்கே, சிந்தனைக்கு அகற்றுவோம்

வேலிதொகுதி மக்களே (3)

உணவுக்கும் மக்களே

ஆயுதம் கல்வித் தொகுப்பும்
அளவகுறைக்கும் கல்வித் தொகுப்பும் } (2)

அபிவிருத்தி மாதிரித்தொகுப்பும் } (2)
அபிவிருத்தி மாதிரித்தொகுப்பும்

திருமதி மலர் குழு
சீக்கிர மனிதர் குறை
வளவள கல்வி
தொகுப்பு.

