



ASSEFA
ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014

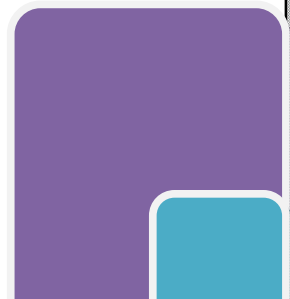


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ABBREVIATION

ANC	➤	Ante Natal Care
ASSEFA	➤	Association for Sarva Seva Farms
CBOs	➤	Community Based Organisations
CBP	➤	Community Building Phase
FIP	➤	Full Implementation Phase
FRS	➤	Farmers Renaissance Scheme
GOVT	➤	Government
Ha	➤	Hectare
LPD	➤	Litres Per Day
MCH	➤	Mother and Child Health Care
NABARD	➤	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural
NBFC	➤	Non Banking Financial Company
PNC	➤	Post Natal Care
PTA	➤	Parents Teachers Association
SHG	➤	Self Help Group
SMBT	➤	Sarvodaya Mutual Benefit Trust

1. PREAMBLE

Mahatma Gandhi is a symbol of quintessential Indian culture, the culture that values sharing, truth and concern for every human and living being. It is epitomized in his saying, "There is enough for everyone's need, but not for anyone's greed." He envisaged within Indian democracy, flowering of self-reliant sovereign village republics, ultimate in the concept of participatory and decentralized people's government.

Acharya Vinoba Bhave, according to Gandhi himself, understood the Gandhian thought better than he did. His Bhoodan movement, an expression of Sarvodaya ideology, revolutionised the mind of many young men some of whom decided to carry it forward.

ASSEFA is one such seed, being grown to reach the last man in the society, and work with him to form and strengthen people's self-managing bodies to realise a sustained development process in favour of the poor and deprived.

MISSION Statement:

"To improve the economic, social and cultural status of the rural communities and enhance their skills and self-management capacity. Unite the rural communities without any kind of discrimination and work for the up-liftment of the social, cultural and economic life of all and to establish self-sufficient, self-reliant and self-managed communities based on the principles of love, services and social justice'

Having started as an offshoot of Bhoodan movement with the holy mission of developing Bhoodan lands in 1968, ASSEFA has been serving the rural poor and deprived classes for the last forty six years.

Depending upon the necessity and needs of the environment, ASSEFA changed its approach and programs to serve the needy and deserving people in a better manner.

Having started with the approach to work with Bhoodan allottees, ASSEFA has changed gradually to work under Area development. Similarly, it has changed its program from land development to multi facet welfare programs.

- **PHASE I: Development of Bhoodan Lands (1968 to 1977):**



It is the first phase of ASSEFA's development initiative. The lands distributed under Bhoodan movement were identified and assisted the concerned Bhoodan allottees to bring the lands under cultivation. From the success of the first one, ASSEFA went on developing other Bhoodan lands in Tamil Nadu and gradually to other states with the following principles.

- Identifying contiguous blocks of atleast 20 or more acres of under-developed Bhoodan land.
 - Identifying potential beneficiaries, preferably from Harijan communities and otherwise landless.
 - Organising the beneficiaries to upturn the land for cultivation by sinking open wells, levelling land, laying pipelines, etc.
 - Farming was under the management committee and Bhoodan families' needs were met as part of cultivation expenses. The surplus was shared among themselves.
 - After a period of time, handing over the land to Bhoodanees to manage themselves, either as group or individual farms, keeping the assets under community ownership.
- **PHASE II: Gramdhan Development (1978 to 1983):**

Though, the Bhoodan lands were developed for the individual allottees, it was felt the necessity to integrate the Bhoodanees



with mainstream communities. Thus, ASSEFA introduced the concept of “Gramdhan Development approach.” Under Gramdhan, there was a complete surrender of property rights of the individual farmer to village community, with the revolutionary change in the village social structure that implied, landless became equal members of the village community.

ASSEFA piloted this concept in selective villages in Natham block. It set about the formation of Gram Sabhas in these villages, and gradually took up various aspects of community and economic development. Thus, ASSEFA gradually moved towards village based rather than land based development.

- **PHASE III: Integrated Area Development (1984 to 1993):**



With the adoption of the village based development approach, ASSEFA realised the necessity of other welfare programs. ASSEFA gradually introduced other socio-economic programs. In 1978, Sarva Seva Schools for quality education for the rural children was introduced. Subsequently, village based industry industries such as groundnut sweet making, oil pressing, cardboard manufacturing and leatherworks etc., were introduced.



Health care became an important aspect. Animal husbandry offered as a subsidiary employment to agricultural labourers, Social forestry on the degraded land, Housing programme for hygienic living were gradually taken up.

While this process of diversification was a natural outcome of expansion as well as determination to do effective and long lasting work. The needs, in most cases, were identified by themselves, and the solutions were offered. This led to form various community based organisations to sustain these activities.

- **PHASE IV: Programme Sustainability (1994 to 2003):**

During this phase, there was rapid expansion of areas as well programmes. Tamil Nadu Government also entrusted to implement the IFAD sponsored women development program in Tamil Nadu.

Subsequently, ASSEFA also decided to consolidate the various welfare programs and developed a strategy to sustain it towards building up self-reliant/sufficient communities.

Based on the community's inputs, workable suggestions and experiences, ASSEFA strengthened the following factors.

- Formation and Strengthening the Community Based Organisations (CBOs)
- Building up Resources
- External Linkages and
- Creating a Congenial Environment

The local communities were engaged in the development process such as identifying issues, developing suitable programs and implementation strategies through women self help groups and activity based groups. This was followed by the assessment and monitoring the results achieved.



In order to coordinate these groups and avail external support, the federation of respective activity based groups as well as women SHGs were needed. Thus, these groups were federated subsequently and registered under suitable legal entity to carry on the respective activities in the specified areas.

Apex bodies for each programme to coordinate and provide professional support were initiated. The resources were built up at the community level in the form of savings and revolving funds, which are managed by the respective body within the purview of existing law.

As on 31st March 2014, ASSEFA had promoted 156 community organisations with suitable legal entity as given below.

S. No	Institutions	Legal Entity	Purposes	Units
1	Sarva Jana Seva Kosh	Companies Act	Development Finance Company for Livelihood activities	1
2	Sarvodaya Livelihoods Mutual Benefit Trusts	MBT	Federated body of Livelihoods Ensuring Groups. Avail credit support from Kosh	18
3	Sarvodaya Mutual Benefit Trust	MBT	Federated body of women SHGs. Mobilise resources from SNFL to meet credit demand of SHGs	113
4	Sarvodaya Nano Finance Ltd	NBFC	Micro Finance Institution owned by women SHGs. Raises external loans to meet the credit needs of SHGs via SMBT.	1
5	Institutions for Micro Enterprises	Trusts & Society	Apex bodies to promote micro enterprise based livelihoods	3
6	Sarva Seva Habitat Promotion Ltd	Section 25 Company	Financial and non financial support to construct new houses and improve existing houses	2
7	Milk Processing Companies	Section 25 Company	Women owned Companies to process, homogenise and pocket surplus milk to market	5
8	Education Trusts	Trust Act	Established to provide professional support to community managed Schools in ensuring quality education	9
9	SHARE	Trust Act	To promote community health and school health programs in ASSEFA project areas	1
10	SARC	Trust Act	Action research, documentation, disseminating successful initiatives in development sector	1
11	ASSEFA Chits	Companies Act	Savings and Investment	1
12	Seva Tech Solutions Ltd	Companies Act	Introduce software applications in ASSEFA promoted organisations	1
	Total			156

In addition, three “Producers Companies” were promoted during the current financial year to give focus and consolidate the various initiatives started under “Farmers Renaissance Program.”

- **PHASE V: Development Initiatives through Associate Organisations (Since 2004):**

With the promotion of more community organisations, ASSEFA took up the role of “MOTHER” in nurturing and guiding these Associate Organisations to serve the local communities.

Regular trainings, mostly handholding supports were provided to these organisations. In addition, guidance and supports were provided to these Organisations in mobilising local resources, to continue its programs.

Hence, ASSEFA has gradually reduced its overseas grants to less than three percent of the overall budget of Rs. 3,240 millions of ASSEFA and its Associated Organisations in 2013.

External grants were raised mainly for children education, health care services and for piloting the innovative development ideas.

Thus, in the last forty-six years, ASSEFA has implemented many experiments for the welfare of millions of poor covering about 11,000 villages in the states of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

The purposeful journey during the last forty-six years is not the end. ASSEFA continuously carry forward its mission.

An overview of performance during the year 2013 - 2014

2. INTEGRATING NATURAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS..

Agriculture is the main occupation in rural areas. Most people are dependent upon agriculture and allied activities for their livelihoods. In the recent years, farmers are finding it difficult to practice farming on viable basis.

Though various reasons are cited for decrease in production in agriculture sector, the main cause is the lack of integrating natural resources such as land, soil, water, livestock and agriculture.

For instances:

1. Farmers having water resources and cattle wealth cannot get maximum yield from agriculture, unless they go for mixed farming taking fodder into consideration.
2. Similarly farmers cannot get expected production if they do not have water resources for irrigation purposes, as the monsoon is unpredictable.
3. Farmers without livestock cannot expect maximum output, as otherwise, they need to invest more on chemical fertilizers to supplement the nutrients for the soil.
4. Moreover, farmers will be under high risk while depending upon agriculture alone for their income, in case no livestock is reared.

Other reasons such as lack of application of scientific cultivation practices and usage of inferior crop inputs have also lead to poor production.

Thus, the farmers, with low production coupled with increase in cost of production and uncertain price in the market prices, are the

reasons for losing interest in farming which resulted to migrate for other jobs.



ASSEFA has been addressing these problems by enhancing and integrating the natural resources of land, soil, water, cattle wealth and agriculture under “Farmers Renaissance Scheme”.

This initiative has been carried out in eighteen locations across six regions in Tamil nadu. As on 31st March 2014, 8,002 farmers were enrolled in Sivagangai, Kalligudi, Kariyapatti, Natham, Thandikudi and Melmaruvathur regions.

Depending upon the necessity, farmers were rendered with the following services to enhance the production on sustainable basis.

- Clearing, levelling and preparation of land for agriculture purposes.
- Building rainwater harvesting structure to stop soil erosion and recharge groundwater.
- Both these activities are carried out under watershed projects in collaboration with NABARD.
- Introduction of efficient water usage technology such as drip, distribution pipelines, sprinklers, etc for irrigation purposes.

- Guidance and support for improved farming practices of paddy, cereals, millets, groundnuts and vegetables.
- Production and supply of tree crops saplings from community nurseries.
- Assistance and guidance in purchase of livestock such as cows, heifer calves, goats, sheep and country chicks.
- Application of labour saving implements such as weed remover, sprayer, transplantation of saplings and harvesting of crops.

In addition, “Farmers Centres” were established at Sivagangai, Kariyapatti and Melmaruvathur areas to act as a common platform for the farmers to share their knowledge among them for mutual benefits.



The Centres are also used as Research and Development in innovations and piloting new cultivation practices, livestock rearing and water management.

Activity wise coverage of Farmers under Farmers Renaissance Scheme

S.No	Particulars	Sivagangai Region	Melmaruvathur Region	Natham Region	Kariyapatti Region	Thirumangalam Region	Thandikudi Region	Total
1	Total FRS units	3	4	4	1	3	3	18
2	Farmers Enrolled	1650	2483	1229	820	1055	765	8,002
3	Watershed Projects							
	a) Land covered in hectare	3032	-	-	-	3069	-	6,101
	b) Families benefited	1149	-	-	-	2175	-	3,324
	Sub Total	1149	-	-	-	2175	-	3,324
4	Water Management (Application of technology)	4	33	-	49	1		87
	Sub Total	4	33	-	49	1	-	87
5	Crop Production Management							
	a) Food Crops	60	807	-	140	74	-	1,081
	b) Oil Seeds	25	194	-	41	18		278
	c) Vegetables	-	22	-	-	-	33	55
	d) Others	-	16	94	-	11	221	342
	Sub Total	85	1039	94	181	103	254	1756
6	Livestock Promotion							
	a) Milch Animals	581	67	190	-	74	7	919
	b) Heifer Calves	7	491	325	-	1	-	824
	c) Goats, Sheep	221	1	-	212	239	67	740
	Sub Total	809	559	515	212	314	74	2483
7	Agriculture Implements		3				2	5
	Sub Total	1030	3				2	5
8	Agriculture Enterprises				120		35	155
	Sub Total	-	-	-	120	-	35	155
	TOTAL	3,077	1,634	609	562	2,593	365	7,810

Note: Except few villages in Sivagangai, Kariyapatti and Melmaruvathur, local resources were raised as credit/revolving funds to carry on these activities.

AGRI CLINIC:

ASSEFA has promoted AGRI CLINIC at Pooriyampakkam village to serve about 2,250 farmers in the surrounding villages. The Clinic has already started functioning, providing services, as given below, to the registered farmers.



- a) Analysing the contents of soils and water and recommend suitable crops and application of soil nutrients.
- b) Medicines to cure infected/diseased crops
- c) Distribution of manure / soil nutrients and
- d) Awareness creation and assistance in application of appropriate agriculture implements in farming practices.

ASSEFA has already received license / approval from the concerned government department to run this CLINIC.

PRODUCER COMPANY:

In March 2013, ASSEFA organised a farmers' conference at Pooriyampakkam to assess their problems and suitable mitigation measures. One of the resolutions passed in the conference is the necessity to federate farmers groups based on their activities for coordination and guidance.

As a follow up, ASSEFA promoted the following three PRODUCERS COMPANIES.

- ASSEFA Seed Producers Company for Chithamur area.
- ASSEFA Milk Producers Company for Lathur area and
- ASSEFA Livestock Producers Company for Kariyapatti area

The PRODUCER COMPANY is promoted to enable true cooperative in nature without any flaws that exist in the present cooperative Law.

The shareholders of the company are exclusively the producers and no outsider is either a shareholder or director of the Company. Among the shareholders, five persons were elected as first Board of Directors for each company.



These producers, being new to Company's rules and regulations, regular trainings were arranged on a) the company's aims and objectives b) brainstorming on intervention areas with business model c) statutory compliances d) roles and responsibilities of the shareholders and Board of Directors and f) preparation of business plan.

ASSEFA has deputed senior worker to each Company as Chief Executive Office to take the initiatives move forward.

AGRO-VALUE ADDED UNITS

Marketing the produces, at competitive price, is one of the major concerns among the farmers. In many instances, farmers complain low price for their produce, as they sell their produces through middlemen. The farmers get less when their produces pass through more middlemen before reaching the customers.

As part of addressing this problem, ASSEFA has promoted a “Food Processing Unit” at Vembarali to serve the farmers of Natham area. In the 1st phase, the unit is involved in manufacturing MANGO bottled juices and market it in the surrounding areas under the brand name “SEVA”. The local people, especially rural women were trained and engaged in manufacturing these products.



Similarly, another agro industrial unit is established at Uchapatti to manufacture other value added products such as a) flavoured milk b) spice powders and c) different varieties of pickles for which raw materials can be procured from the members of the Farmers Renaissance Scheme.

3. GENDER EQUALITY

Gender discrimination continues to be a major issue. Traditional patriarchal practices have relegated women to secondary status within the even within the families and workplaces. This drastically affects women's health, financial status, education, and political environment.

Women are commonly married young, quickly become mothers, and are then burdened by stringent domestic and financial responsibilities. They are frequently malnourished since women typically are the last member of a household to eat and the last to receive medical attention. Additionally, only 54 percent of Indian women are literate as compared to 76 percent of men.

In some areas, these problems are aggravated by high levels of seasonal migration. For many men, migration is required, as rural area often lack a sufficient economy to provide income for a family year-round. Women are commonly left behind to take care of the household activities.

In unorganised sector, it is estimated that an average woman's wage is 30 percent lower than a man's wage working in a similar position. They must also tend to domestic responsibilities. This practices is moiré in the women-headed families.

ASSEFA addresses these challenges with multi facet welfare programs. Through women self help groups exclusively to tackle women related issues. About 200 to 250 SHGs located in the continuous areas are federated and registered under Mutual Benefit Trust.

At present, 113 Mutual Benefit Trusts have been registered in different parts of India. ASSEFA acts as mentor and guiding these Trusts to create opportunities for their members to overcome their challenges and enhance their socio-economic status.

LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT:

In the globalisation era, participation of women in income generation becomes essential to get recognised among the family members. Moreover, men, due to economical necessity migrate to other places. Therefore, women are encouraged and assisted on priority basis to take up income generation activities.

Generally, women are preferred to get support for agriculture purposes. In many instances, this helps their family to generate income from the farming sector. In Chithamur area, 19 women headed families were identified and being supported with a special package to develop their lands on pilot scale.

In addition, many women were provided support to take up animal husbandry, particularly with cows and heifer calves. The disposal of the surplus milk is arranged through linking with dairy factories, promoted exclusively for this purposes. About 20,000 women are getting benefited under this linkage.



Women are also supported with non-farm activities such as tailoring, petty business, kirana store, tea shop, street vending business, etc, based on their interest and skill.

During the reporting period, nearly 124,000 women were supported with livelihoods initiatives worth Rs. 1,630 millions. Except few villages in Thandikudi and Chithamur area, women in other villages were helped to raise credit for livelihood activities from the financial institutions.



COMMUNITY MARRIAGES:

Community Marriage was introduced to address the social problems of dowry and lavish spending, which put them to lifelong loan burden. The simple mass weddings and inexpensive, but a dignified marriage bring the blessings and goodwill of the whole community.

Thus, ASSEFA encourages women self help groups to organize Community Marriages to promote communal harmony and inter-religious amity in rural areas. Community marriages are organised in such a manner that the marriages of different religious faiths take place simultaneously – embodies mutual respect for other religion and to ensure inter-religious amity and communal harmony.

In areas, where communal violence is prevalent, the community marriages help to bring people closer to each other for a better understanding on various issues.



During this year also, these events were received special significance with women SHGs in various projects had successfully conducted community marriages. As on March 31, 2014, a total no. of 1,750 couples from Hindus, Muslims and Christians and from socio-economically weaker sections had been solemnised. During the reporting period alone, 105 couples got married.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES:

The members of the SHGs were supported with the following health care services.

- **ANC Services:** The pregnant members were advised and guided to undergo regular antenatal care services from the trained doctors. In many locations, the primary health centers (PHC) were linked to provide these services including delivery of a baby. As an incentive, the concerned members were provided with wage loss compensation under Social Security Scheme (explained below).

- **SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES:**

Many members of SHGs are poor and work as agriculture labourers. They get income only when they attend the work. During pregnancy period also, these women, compelled to work, in spite of doctors' advice to take rest, especially during the last three months period. This is mainly because of fear of losing their income.

In order to address this issue, ASSEFA helped SMBTs in mobilising resources locally for "Wage loss compensation." A resource mobilisation campaign was organised for a month long period during Gandhi Jayanthi. A printed token worth Rs. Ten was distributed to the public. The amount collected was set aside for wage loss compensation.

During the reporting period, a sum of Rs. 817,520 was collected for this purpose from 32 SMBTs. 147 pregnant ladies, who are the members of the women SHGs, were supported with wage loss compensation worth Rs. 377,500.



- **Health Camps:** These are organized with the qualified and experienced doctors. During the camps, the members undergo a general health check-up. In case of minor health problem, medicines are provided. For chronic problem, the patients have been referred to the nearby govt hospitals for long term treatment. Special camps for eye also organized. The patients with cataract were provided with free treatment.

CREATION OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS:

Owning the immovable and productive assets such as dwelling places, agriculture lands, etc., generally, helps any woman to build up confidence and feel secured. Generally, in rural areas, the titles of such assets are in the name of the male members.

Believing that ownership of the immovable assets can contribute significantly to empower rural women ASSEFA is involved in creating awareness and rendering necessary services for this cause. During this period, ASSEFA was able to persuade and convince 60 families successfully to buy new housing plots with the title in the name of women members. This was carried out in Rawuthanallur villages in Sankarapuram block.

All these women are part of ASSEFA promoted SHGs and involved directly in economical programs. With the surplus income earned by these women and contribution from their families, they were able to be the owner of these plots.

A. SAVINGS FOR PRODUCTIVE ASSETS:

Another initiative to help women in creating assets was undertaken by linking them with 'CHIT COMPANY.' This scheme is primarily aimed at helping the women SHG members to create productive assets out of their monthly saving.

Three schemes are offered mainly to benefit the SHGs. These include Rs 25,000/- , Rs 50,000 and Rs 100,000. In each scheme, about 25 SHGs are enrolled. Each SHG subscribes the saving amount every month, as per the chit scheme, for 25 months. Every month, one SHG who required fund for investment, would receive the savings of all other SHGs on auction basis.

The SHG, who quotes the lowest bid, will get the prize money. The members, who receive the prize money, will be guided properly to invest in productive assets as well as immovable assets such as purchase of housing plots.



As on March 31, 2014, 2080 members have been covered under this program.

4. COMMUNITY HEALTH

ASSEFA has been continuing its health care services for the women and children, the most vulnerable sections, directly as well as through collaborations.



A. Maternal Child Health Services: In Marakanam, Cuddalore, Pondicherry, Karaikal and Gingee, ASSEFA offers direct services with a team of 70 members headed by a qualified and experienced lady physician. These areas are backward and affected during the tsunami tragedy.

The health conditions of the women and children, mostly of fishermen communities, were not satisfactory. Many suffer with anaemic problems and the pregnant ladies are ignorant of pre natal care services. Hence, these communities were offered services such as awareness creation, ante natal and post natal care services. The coverage during the reporting period is as given below.

- Training to 328 women of SHGs on reproductive health
- ANC services were offered to 354 pregnant ladies and PNC services to 420 young mothers.
- To ensure maintenance of hygiene among new born, baby kits were given to 420 young mothers.
- Supplied nutritive mix to 4500 pregnant ladies, young mother & children and
- Blood and urine tests were conducted for 1024 diabetic prone ladies.
- Awareness camps conducted to benefit 726 adolescent girls
- Supported 375 families to promote fruit tree saplings as supplementary nutrition.
- 842 ill persons were given treatment in our clinics, of which 76 persons were referred to government hospital for further treatment.



In the recent rapid assessment of these target villages in respect of the impact of the health program, the following were revealed.

- 100% immunisation coverage of Ante Natal mothers and infants under 1 year old.

- 75% reduction in nutritional Anaemia in infants of less than 1 year old.
- 75% improvement of personal hygiene in post natal mother and school children.
- 75% people under health program coverage are aware of common infection and nutritive improvement.
- 50% acceptance of pulses, vegetables and millets in foods.
Common usage of green vegetables and pulses in food.

Sanitation Scheme: In Rajasthan, with the support of FINISH society, 210 families were supported with construction of toilet facilities.

B. School Health Services: As part of protecting the children health, especially the students of the Sarva Seva Schools, the following services were offered.

- Personal Hygiene: The selective students are trained in health and hygiene and honoured them with a titled, “Kutty doctor.” These students are assigned the task of maintaining personal hygiene among their classmates. As on March 31, 2014, 265 students were trained as kutty doctors.
- Supplementary Nutrition: As part of addressing malnourishment, mid-day meals are being supplied to the students. This is being offered in schools, especially approved by the govt for the supply of free meals. About 5,886 students were covered under supplementary nutrition.
- Health Checkup is carried out with the support of qualified and experienced physicians. In case of minor problem, the children are treated directly and the parents are advised to take care of their wards accordingly. For other problems, they are referred to the nearest hospital for treatment. During this year, 11,281 students were covered under this check up.

C. Health Camps: The Mutual Benefit Trusts are encouraged to organise health camps in collaboration with nearby govt / charitable hospitals to benefit the families of SHG members. They are mostly conducted at free of cost.

During the reporting period, the following health camps were conducted. .



- 1) **General Camps** were conducted with qualified physicians to examine the specific health problems. In case of minor problems, treatment is given there itself. Other cases were referred to the nearest hospital for treatment. During this year, 2 camps were organised to benefit 495 members in Tamil Nadu. In collaboration with CHETNA, organised 27 camps to benefit 1,270 persons in Rajasthan.
- 2) **Eye Camps** are conducted in collaboration with Aravind, Sankaranithralaya and Agarwal Eye hospitals at free of cost. The members with eye problems were brought to the camps and tested with the qualified doctors. In case of Cataract, the patients were operated at free of cost. During the reporting period, 16 camps were conducted to benefit 2,726 persons, of which 829 persons were implanted lens for Cataract.

3) **Special camps** were organised to address specific health problems. These include:

- a. **Urology camp to identify Kidney and Urinary Infection** organised in collaboration with Meenakshi Mission Hospital. 110 persons in Thirumangalam area benefited, of which 42 persons underwent post camp treatment at free of cost.
- b. **Diabetic** camp was organised to benefit 280 diabetic patients.
- c. In collaboration with Meenakshi Mission Hospital, organised a camp for infertile couples. Their defects were identified and given suitable treatment at free of cost. 55 couples benefited, of which 38 couples underwent surgical management.
- d. **TB awareness** camp was conducted in collaboration with Government Hospital at Thirumangalam. 54 persons had participated and explained them about the signs, symptom and remedial measures of TB problem.

D. Hygienic Living Environment: Women and children spend most of their time at home. Hence, hygienic environment is necessary to prevent them from becoming sick. As part of this, assistances were extended to improve sanitation facilities, construction of toilets, cross ventilation, improved chullas, flooring and roof of the dwelling places, etc. These supports were extended to 1,339 families in nine blocks in Tamil Nadu.

5. RURAL EDUCATION

ASSEFA has been involved in rural education sector for the last 36 years. Education, being a priority one of ASSEFA, is offering to the rural children by establishing schools in the safe and learning environment with necessary teaching and learning facilities.

A. Holistic Education: Unlike other schools, importance is given for holistic development of the children. The students are trained not only in upgrading the knowledge, skills and healthy body, but also their mind to respect, love and share with the fellow beings.

The regular syllabus, as prescribed by the Government is followed in a holistic approach. This enables the students to continue higher education in other institutions after completing their studies in ASSEFA schools.



In addition, other areas covered under the holistic approach include

- Life skill education: Rural based income generation activities such as agriculture, goat farm, dairying, tailoring...
- Yoga and meditation to sharpen concentration
- Learning non-violence to practice love, caring and sharing with fellow-beings.

- Arts and crafts
- Kutty doctors to train in basic health care including first aid
- Extracurricular activities such as dance, singing, acting, drawing, painting, etc and
- Sports and games

Talented teachers are recruited from the local areas and given regular training to provide quality services. In addition, these teachers stay in the school campus, which help them to dedicate their time, mind and heart for this noble cause.

By end of March, 14,188 students were under this fold with the support of 587 teachers in 116 regular schools and Higher education Institutions.

Sl.No	School Type	Schools	Children	Teachers
1	Primary Schools	47	4,873	203
2	Middle Schools	3	801	28
3	High Schools	7	2,308	83
4	Higher Secondary Schools	1	1,186	39
5	Matriculation Schools	11	3,849	165
6	Higher Education	3	188	13
7	Special Schools*	45	983	56
	Total	116	14,188	587

Note: * School is meant for slow learners

B. Upgradation of School Buildings and Facilities: The following works were undertaken to ensure safety, hygiene of the campus and fulfil the norms of the Government.

- Construction of new classrooms to meet the additional students at Schools in Ettayampatti, Thandikudi, Thonukal and Mettupatty.
- Compound wall construction for schools at K.Pudur, Erichanatham and Thonukal.
- Establishment of science laboratory for Andipuram school and
- Drinking water facilities for Iyyanarpuram school



C. Resource Mobilisation:

ASSEFA has initiated various measures to mobilise resources locally for sustaining the school activities. The local resources are mobilised through

- Donations from the communities/public
- Contribution from parents as user fee
- Patronage from local Philanthropist
- Revenue by utilizing the existing immovable assets and
- Social business.

For Uthiramerur education program, with the support of Partage, France, ASSEFA has initiated the following social businesses to generate revenue towards school sustainability.

- Renting community hall for social/family functions
- Revenue from “Educational Resort” of Pooriyampakkam campus
- Heifer calves rearing program
- Dairy business and
- Income from Integrated agriculture farms

Some of the initiatives have already been started functioning with generation of revenue. At present, these revenues are reinvested. This initiative is expected to support Uthiramerur education program when it becomes independent from external assistances.

Similarly, ASSEFA has launched a “Vidhya Dhanam” meaning sponsorship for child education. It was inaugurated by the Friends of ASSEFA, Alessandria and from Canada at Madurai. The local well wishers were invited and explained the importance of child education and supports needed to bring up the changes in the society. Participants were enthusiastic and agreed to sponsor a) education of children and some for building class rooms.



During Gandhi Jayanthi, a month long campaign was launched to collect donation from the public for education purposes by Sarva Seva Schools. A printed token worth Rupee TEN with the quote on Education was distributed to the public and collected Rs.Ten for each token. The amount so collected was invested separately as corpus. The interest income will be utilised for the school management.

6. HUMAN RESOURCE

Everyone would agree that it is a daunting task taking ASSEFA for forty-six years. It is not the efforts of a single person or a group, but by the people from the various walks of life who contributed a lot in the spirit of giving and sharing to this grand, “yagna” for social reconstruction by peaceful means.

<i>Programs</i>	<i>Senior Mgmt</i>	<i>Managers/ Program Incharge/ Team leaders</i>	<i>Program Associates/ Branch Incharge</i>	<i>Executive/ Field workers/ technical assistant/teachers</i>	<i>Accountant/ computer operator/cashier</i>	<i>Support Staffs</i>	<i>Partners / Volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
Livelihood Promotion	5	9	33	119	31	173	1320	1690
Micro & Social Credit	2	31	51	292	120	7	455	958
Education	2	9	13	587	13	148	226	998
Community Health & Habitat	1		1	20	3	1	46	72
Coordination	1	1	1		2	1		6
Total	11	50	99	1018	169	330	2047	3724

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