

Minutes of ADB Livelihood Meeting

Date: 03 rd April 2006 (Monday)
Time: 3:50 pm to 4:40pm
Venue: NCRC premises, Collectorate, Nagapattinam
Chaired by: Mr. V. Chakrapani, Municipal Commissioner, Nagapattinam
Mr. Vinay Kumar, Municipal Health Officer

The meeting was begun with a warm welcome to all the NGO participants. Ms. Annie George, Mr. V. Srinivasan and Mr. Rajeshwaran of NCRC were also present. This was a follow up meeting on the Asian Development Bank (ADB) workshop on livelihood, held on 8th February 2006.

The agenda of this meeting was to find out the NGOs who would be interested in joining hands with the municipality in starting up new SHGs under the livelihood project of ADB.

The Municipal Commissioner, Mr. V. Chakrapani told that rejuvenation of the 175 tsunami affected SHGs and starting of more new SHGs has been planned. Training on innovative and newer livelihood opportunities will be provided to the members. For this purpose, ADB has approved and sanctioned Rs. 35 lakhs. The commissioner asked if any of the NGOs are ready to implement or coordinate in this programme within the municipality area.

Mr. Vinay Kumar, Municipal Health Officer added that the NGOs can identify and form SHGs for the needy in their respective work areas. Economic support will be provided to the NGOS by ADB, via the district municipality.

Due to elections, the government is restricted from involving itself in any developmental activities. Also, ADB has clearly stated that. Hence, the commissioner told the NGOs to take this as a great opportunity to involve themselves in a 'do good to the community' deal without much investment.

He told that many NGOs have formed SHGs under the *Mahalir thittam*. Apart from that, the NGOs are expected to initiate and help in this project too. The interested NGOs were requested to come forward at the earliest as this project has to be started by June' 2006.

The commissioner stated the main norms and conditions related to the project:

- this project can be implemented only in Tsunami affected areas.
- the SHGs should have only members who are below poverty line (bpl).
- participation of more NGOs will be considered for fund allocation.
- the new SHGs can be formed for either men or women or both.
- the project intends to establish a solid waste management unit, with a huge one time investment but it will provide long lasting benefits to the community.
- this subsidy shall not be availed by the non – affected group or the not so deserving. For validating this, the NGOs are the best source.
- SHGs, which are already existing and if its members are below poverty line, they are eligible for availing this fund.

At this point, one of the NGOs wanted to know how the municipality will tackle the case of one person being member of two different SHGs. In addition, NCRC asked that would it be possible to computerize the entire system to avoid duplication. To this, the commissioner told that there is a list of people bpl available with them, which will help in cross checking and avoid duplication.

Another NGO expressed that the list might be of pre tsunami status, but so many people have gone below poverty line after the tsunami. Hence validating eligibility based on the government list will not be fair.

The health officer made note of these queries and said that all of them will be clarified directly with ADB and the NGOs will be given a feedback.

The commissioner also told that the training that will be provided this time to the SHG members will be unique – it will be of universal nature and not of location or topography prone. It can be practiced anywhere and income can be generated. Few of the training planned are auto rickshaw driving, mobile servicing/ repairing, watch repairing, etc. The usual tailoring and petty shops will not be part of this project.

With regard to solid waste management, WESNET was ready to take the lead but due to unknown reasons, they have withdrawn. Now, Phoenix Federation has come forward for this programme and necessary negotiations are under process.

NCRC told that it can help in coordination of the project, resource exchange and data entry, if any. The commissioner gave his contact number asking the NGOs to kindly call up as soon as they take a decision about the proposal.

Commissioner number is – 94434-52106.

MHO, Mr. Vinay number is – 94441-11456

The Municipality will prepare a list of the interested NGOs and give a follow up call after further talks on the finalization of the project with ADB.

The next meeting with the interested NGOs shall be held on 12th April 2006, Wednesday at 4 pm in the same place. Mr. G. Radha, PO, DRDA will also be part of that meeting.

Last, but not the least, the MHO put forth a genuine request to the NGOs – on 9th April 2006, coming Sunday Pulse Polio Program is going to take place. The NGOs were requested to support in promoting awareness about polio drops in the places where they work. Mr. Srinivasan, NCRC delivered the vote of thanks.