



Dear friends of Payir,

August 20, 2010

Warm greetings. My love and regards to everyone in your family.

Mid 2005, we started our work in earnest at Thenur village. Today, 5 years later, we have grown to be a part of life for the people of 4 more villages. In this period, we have ventured into providing primary health care, strengthening elementary education, facilitating Government - People interaction both at community and individual level, creating public infrastructure, boot-strapping new income generation ventures, building new community sacred groves and fostering social solidarity.

As with any growing organization, we had our teething problems, our grand successes, abject failures and enormous challenges to surmount. Our most satisfying experience include eradicating production and delivery of illicit arrack (locally brewed liquor), facilitating in forming Panchayat Level federation for Women self-help groups, establishing strong health referral network, bringing high speed internet (better than many urban households), getting support from teachers of the Government schools for strengthening elementary education. Its a fact that for many children, Payir is where they spend their happiest moments. Above all, the local Payir family - a strong set of 30 grass-root workers, not including the rural IT center, constitute 95% locals and with an average age less than 35 has been our greatest strength.

We have had some big challenges in bringing about Panchayat empowerment, building employable skills, creating new employment opportunities and penetrating into parental attitudes.

Many of our friends and my mentors, almost all our well-wishers have given us a very positive feedback of our work here - mainly on the breadth of work, the speed of development and the local ownership. Lately, such recognition has come from media too. You along with the community are all part of this success. Your continued support has brought us where we are right now.

In hindsight, I personally would have prioritized our work a little differently. I still would have seen us to be a much more participatory organization taking the entire community with us. That is also the essence of this email.

The next 3 years should define us into venturing into activities that encompasses the entire community and has a life-changing experience for all. I see 3 areas as main focus areas - water-shed works, better governance of the Panchayat and creating multitude of small business enterprises.

To bring about this, I need to spend more time with the community in providing leadership support. If we again analyze our 5 years of development, almost all of our community works happened in the first 3 + years when I was able to spend a lot of time at the grass-root level. This past year, I have been largely tied up with administrative and fund raising activities. Our operational funds in the Local account stands just at Rs, 60,000 - less than 2 months operational expenses while our Foreign account has Rs.90,000 - thanks to Asha for Education, our strongest supporter.

I believe, it's too early for us to talk in terms of financial self-sufficiency or sustainability. As my mentor, Dr. Regi George of Tribal Health Initiative points, we need to concentrate more on program and process sustainability than the financial part of it. I firmly can say, in Payir, we have come quite a long way in this process. Many of the activities are being run and owned by local resources - they bring in new ideas and know how to take it forward and my role is mostly guidance. Keeping our operational expenses at about Rs. 8 lakhs per year with less than 10% overheads and still serving close to 10,000 population in multitude of areas shows the team's commitment.

I need to have the independence to think away from financials and deliver where I am best at - being a grass-root worker and leader. I appeal to you to give me this strength. You all have been a great support to me and Payir. Please continue to do so - contributing more for the cause. Let us together take our efforts to the next level.

I personally, derive a lot of energy from all of you. I am sure you will "Give me this energy".

With warmth and best regards
senthil

It has been four months since we reached out to you last, and we hope this newsletter finds you in great spirits. The past few months have been eventful for the Payir family in every sense of the word. We have briefly listed our progress in the various facets of our work here...

Community Initiatives

The Panchayat Library at Thenur which came into existence in 2006 has been dysfunctional as the librarian never turned up at the library. After a prolonged struggle with the Panchayat, Payir staff was instrumental in convincing the appointment of a new librarian - a retired Primary school teacher. Upon request, we pay an additional amount to the Librarian as the Government salary is very low.

The library is open on all week days since April. Now, daily around 30 people, mainly children and youths use the library.

In June, our learning initiative support staffs campaigned along with the Panchayat primary school for enrolling children to Public schools. Next year, we have planned to do this advance in the month of May. Also, all our support staffs have been inducted into their respective School's Village Education Committee.

Education Initiatives

Our support staffs - Chellamma, Vinoda and Patchaimuthu - underwent a training at Vidya Vanam in Annaikatti near Coimbatore between May 24 - 30, 2010. The training involved various activities that revolved around Science, Maths and also taught them creative techniques to communicate with kids. They were also trained on conducting puppet shows.

The curriculum for the academic year 2010-11 was finalized during this period of time.

Ms Kanchana, who visited Payir on the 2nd of June suggested that map work, proverbs and riddles be included as a part of the curriculum. Later in June, Mr. Ramachandran from the Padma Seshadri group of Institutions brought Mathematics kits and trained the teachers on how the kits must be used. We're sure the kids will make the best use of these kits and turn out to be Math whizzes!

Science and Mathematics classes are being conducted each evening for students of the 6th, 7th and the 8th standard through our e-learning initiative - a program piloted by many volunteers specifically Satish and Venkat. Summer classes were conducted during the month of May for the after-school students. About 30 students from classes 6th, 7th and the 8th standard attended the camp and were coached on Science, Mathematics and other general topics. The worksheet patterns for the after school kids were decided upon during the month of May, under the guidance of Ms. Sujatha from Chennai, who had come on a visit to Payir.

A summer class for the 9th, 10th and 11th standard students who have secured 1st and 2nd ranks in their respective classes was initiated with the help of Vijay Cements. The classes intend to give them the encouragement they need to secure a good rank at a district level. School bags, geometry boxes and other stationery items were provided for all the students who enrolled themselves into this program. These classes were held successfully all through the month of May, when there was summer vacations and are continued thereafter during weekends.

A library has been initiated at our learning center for the children in July. The library has Tamil, English and bilingual (Tamil and English) books. There are also activity books and activity games besides an extensive range of CDs and DVDs.



Top:
Village Education Committee meeting at Thenur ADW school
Bottom:
Student Enrollment Campaign at Thotiappatti led by Arul

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Support staffs during training at Vidya Vanam



Medical camp team including Payir staffs

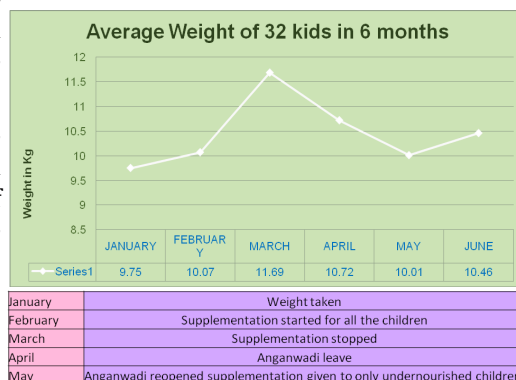
Health care Initiatives

On the 4th of April, around 12 doctors (including ophthalmologist, ENT specialist, gynecologist, pediatrician, orthopaedician, neurologist, dermatologist, and oncologist) from GVN Hospitals, Trichy conducted a health camp in the Payir campus. The camp catered to around 5 villages around Thenur. More than 400 patients were screened and nearly 40 patients were recommended for follow-up care for different specialties. A new case of cancer was even identified!

Mythili, the in-house physiotherapist, has been visiting Government schools in four villages around Thenur to impart lessons on health-related issues as a part of the health education initiative. A drama reflecting a specific health issue is being staged on a monthly basis to promote awareness.

The health workers weigh the kids aged below 5 years monthly as part of their community health work and supply nutrition packets to the kids who are underweight in Thenur, Thotiyapatti, Nathakadu and Varadarajapuram.

As the graph indicates, we saw good progress in the kids health when supplemented with the nutrition packets. Due to lack of funds we are currently providing the nutrition packets only to under nourished kids. With Rs.500 you can sponsor a child for 3 months. . Please find donation details on the last page of the newsletter.



Other News

The well within the Payir campus was dug deeper with little success. Mr. Gajendran, Mr. Ravi and Mr. Selladurai from Thotiyapatti village joined our employees in this efforts. However, a lateral bore that was drilled early in July reached an underground water stream. So, we will hopefully not see a scarcity of water anymore.

Our fields have been cultivated with paddy, corn and vegetables. We hope we'll see a good harvest this season, thanks to the consistent water supply from the well.

Three new staff – Mr. Murali, Mr. Jaya Kumar and Mr. Jabneesh - were employed for the IT-center in April. Arul and Bala also joined our learning initiative team. Staff were also hired for the agricultural activities.



Mr. Habib parted ways with Payir in April in pursuit of a job abroad. Ms. Saranya is to be wedded soon and chose to leave Payir. We wish them both luck for their journey ahead.

Ms. Nithyaa, Ms. Emily, Mr. Rajesh and Ms. Sasha visited us earlier this July. They are a part of the BUILD team of the Tufts University. They have expressed their interest in collaborating with Payir in its work towards facilitating holistic rural development.

Ms. Aparna, an engineering student from Bangalore, volunteered to help us with our activities. She stayed in Thenur and worked with us for a span of one month.

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Follow us on the [web](#), [blogs](#),  or 

How to contribute

Payir operates mainly on donations received from friends and well wishers like you. Any amount you contribute will help Payir make a difference in the lives of many rural people.

General fund

Make a general donation and we will assign the funds to the area where we know the need is greatest.

Yes, I would like to donate the following amount to Payir Trust.

© Amount * Cheque /Draft no. Date

Corpus Donation

Donating to a Corpus Fund is one way to build up a strong organisation. Funds in a Corpus cannot be used directly at any time- only the interest accruing from the investment made out of the Corpus donations, without touching the principal itself. This way your money remains forever, strengthening the organization.

We have a general corpus fund which is used for our different programmes. Yes, I would like to donate towards Corpus.

© Amount * Cheque /Draft no. Date

Friends of Payir - *Committing oneself to holistic rural development*

Show care. Pledge a minimum of Rs. 500/- monthly for fixed number of months and see our dreams for the village come true. Your donation will form a vital part of our collections and we bank on its continuity.

Yes, I commit myself to donate monthly for months under "Friends of Payir" plan.

Sponsor a child

Yes, I would like to donate the following amount under the "Sponsor a child" plan to Payir Trust.

Donation Scheme	Amount (for 1 year)			Total Donation
Break-fast for Primary school children	2000	x	Units	
Nutrient Supplement program for under and mal-nourished children	2000	x	Units	

© Amount * Cheque /Draft no. Date

* Cheque/DD are payable to Payir Trust.

© Donation can be in Indian Rupees or in any foreign currency.

- *Contributions made to Payir Trust are 50% tax exempt under Section 80 G of the Income Tax Act, 1961, if you file taxes in India - an excellent alternative to make your tax rupees work for the society!*
- *Payir Trust has Foreign Contributions Regulation Act clearance to receive foreign donation.*

Donor Details

Name: Mr./Ms./Dr.

Address:

Telephone: Mobile: E mail:

I am Resident Indian Non-Resident Indian Foreign National

Payir Bank Account Details

Bank Name: *State Bank of India*

Branch: *Srirangam*

IFSC Code: *SBIN0001983*

Account Name: *PAYIR TRUST*

Account Number for Indians/Non-Resident Indians: *10465350452*

Account Number for Foreign Nationals: *30750793126*

The Bank accepts funds transferred through electronic channels