

Report of the Capacity Building Project of WKIP, 15th June to 15th September 2011

June 2011

- Received funds from SFCSL on 9th of June 2011.
- Discussed with Ms Harshani regarding the project and had two meetings with Dr Sarath Buddhadasa of Business Consultancy Services, on conducting a planning workshop for the 2 year Capacity Building Project.
- Had a meeting with Business Consultancy Services (BCS) and Ms Harshani on developing a questionnaire for the baseline study. BCS provided the questionnaire which was field tested and revised. Ms. Karunawathi of WKIP, trained village women's society leaders, on how to expedite the survey and how to fill the questionnaire. 150 baseline interviews were conducted by 12 women from the villages.

July



- Three day Project planning workshop was held by Dr Buddhadasa and his team at Wilpotha. Ms Christina & Ms Harshani too attended this workshop. 19 women and 1 man were present at this event. At the end of the workshop WKIP identified the resources and the capacity building needs for the society members and the activities they would conduct for the next 2 years.
- Capacity Building Project personnel were decided with Ms Harshani and Dr Buddhadasa. Job descriptions too were developing.
- Visited Ms Harshani in Colombo to discuss the project report and the budget allocations. Planned the exchange visit to Matara with Mr. Conrad.
- Ordered the Three wheeler from David Peiris & Co. 11 women members of WKIP prepared to apply for the Three Wheeler, motor cycle and motor vehicle driving license. Women obtained medical reports and followed classes for the written test.
- Revisited the WKIP Societies constitution. Job descriptions were developed for office bearers of the society. Developed a 'draft constitution' suitable for all the women's societies and children's societies.

August



- Brought the three Wheeler to Wilpotha. 11 women from WKIP started learning to drive the Three Wheeler and motor cycle.

- 6 women, 1 man and 5 children went to Matara on a 3 day exchange visit with INDICOS. This group visited Kataragama too.

- Training on environment protection was conducted for 50 families. These families are

encouraged to start organic vegetable gardening. The trainees are expected to use this knowledge during the rainy season.

- Constitution development training was conducted in 8 villages separately for their Women's Societies. 193 women in 8 societies benefited by this training.
- Two one day Leadership trainings were conducted for 49 women.
- Two, 2day Accounting training were conducted for Women's Society committee members. 50 women participated in these two training programmers
- WKIP has developed 2 new Children's Societies. Children in these two societies developed an activity plan up to 31st December.

Karunawathi's experience on the visit to Matara is given below:



- *We learnt that INDECOS have developed the capacities of their staff with the support of donors while implementing projects in the villages. We realized that we made the mistake of developing the capacities of village people without developing our own capacities.*

- *We learnt that helping people who are willing to change shows results rather than trying to help the poor who are not willing to improve their lives.*

- *We advised the Matara village groups to learn and sustain themselves and to have their own accounts and records.*

- *Indecos has a good computer system to keep record of lending... We need to have the same system for our lending programme.*
- *The contact Indecos have with Govt & other professionals makes implementing projects easy for INDECOS.*
- *Ganga learnt how to keep books from Lakmini. Lakmini gave all the accounting formats for us to use in the new Capacity Building Project.*
- *We were treated very well by Mr. Conrad, Ms Pearl and staff while we were at Matara.*



The woman's group shown in this picture is from Kammandaluwa. This is a new women's society set up by WKIP. They never had a women's society or even saved money in their lives.



Thekkearakshithaya is a very remote village where many children do not go to school due to hardships. People in this village do not own land. They are illegally living in government land that is very dry. They do not have water, electricity or public transport. WKIP set up a new children's society in this village. WKIP took a Buddhist priest to teach social ethics to children. (A 14 year old girl has been sleeping around and already has

a child. Most mothers in this village have got married/living together at age 16). Children in this village use foul/bad language. Unfortunately they are unaware of a better way of communicating.

Up to September 15

- WKIP organized a programme for mothers in *Thekkearakshithaya* by taking a police woman, teaching them how to protect their children.

- Designing display boards showing the goals, mission statement, activities, products etc.
- Went on a shopping spree with Ms Harshani. Bought a video camera, still camera, cupboards etc.
- Got quotations for computers, photocopy machines, ceiling for the computer centre etc.
- Dates fixed for INDECOS staff to visit WKIP and planning for the training of trainers on HIV/AIDS to be conducted by Mr. Conrad & Dr Ekanayake.