

Compassion 575

3rd Quarterly report

for 2015

Name of CFCDP	No of Children	District / Province
Poolankaadu	42	Thoppigala / East
Tharavai	42	
Naripul Thorttam	110	Batticaloa / East
Vaharai	95	
Indagala	128	Badulla / Uva
Murippu	56	Mullaitivu / North
Pooneri Maththuwilnaadu	42	Kilinochchi / North
Paranthan G.M.T	54	
Elephant pass G.M.T	155	
Colombo Ministry Center, Wattala	65	Gampaha / West
Bogahawatta	71	Nuwara Eliya / Central
Dangedara	116	Galle / South



The wait is over.

Bogahawatta is a small tea garden belonging to the Nuwara Eliya District in Central Sri Lanka. This tea garden is not too far from NCML's Pattana CFCDP. In the middle of a very poor town, there sits a school called the Bogahawatta Sinhala Vidyalaya; apparently, the only Sinhala School for the entire area.

As reported earlier, the school selection for new CFCDPs is now done with discussions held between the implementing agency (NCML) and the Zonal Education Department. Mostly, NGOs are required to give high preference to their recommendation. As such, the Bogahawatta Sinhala School was recommended and NCML had no second thoughts to this decision looking at the vulnerability of the people of this poor tea garden.

The community of Bogahawatta are a complete sidelined community; a community that is deprived of many of their rights. The reasons for being sidelined is vastly insupportable. More mixed marriages are seen than usual in this village; Marriages between the Sinhala community and the Tamil speaking community and this seems to be the reason for being marginalized. When the question of an inter-ethnic marriage crops up, to many parents, this would be a nightmare which would dash all their hopes. Unlike in most countries, in Sri Lanka it is an issue many prefer to avoid, and has been subject to much criticism. People tend to avoid such relationships whether it is due to the war that prevailed in the country or due to the idea that these kinds of relationships work out only in fairy tales and not in real life. Some even state that such relationships are only imaginary, especially in a nation where there is an ethnic conflict. Although the majority feel that such relationships are a healthy means of encouraging ethnic harmony, they feel that it is a solution that will not work out in practice.

Close to 90% of the tea plantation workers are of Tamil origin who are most likely to oppose inter-ethnic marriages within their community. If in case it happens, the couple will be denied most of their rights. This is seen mostly among communities of remote villages and gradually fading in towns and cities.

Majority of the elders in Bogahawatta have never received education. They've never gone to school and their children not receiving education is never a disturbing factor for the villagers. When NCML reached this village, they found close to 10 school dropouts; of which 2 have never gone to school. Children are never encouraged by their parents to pursue education, instead hard-pressed to earn money for the family.

Assessment commenced in June this year. Since then NCML has been closely working with this village to thoroughly study their lifestyle. Not only were they academically poor, even hygienically, economically and physically they were weak; poverty and hunger rubs shoulders here. They were way below standard and it was the perfect condition for NCML to carry the message of Love to these people.

The CFCDP began earlier this month when the school reopened for term II. The local team is investing more time on getting to know children better. Their motive is to bring the child to the point where he or she will be completely comfortable to pour out their inner-feelings that would support our reason being there. NCML has been very successful in the area of building relationships with children and families and we believe here too God will enable the local team to complete this task perfectly. The next quarterly report will carry more details on operations and the latest happenings in this CFCDP.

New CFCDP in Galle.

NCML extends help to yet another deserving village in Galle, South Sri Lanka. A new CFCDP in Jayawardana Sinhala Vidyalaya in Dangedara begun earlier this term and more details on this project will be reported in the next quarterly report.



New CFCDP in Dangedara near Galle

Other CFCDPs

The rest of the CFCDPs supported by Compassion 575, namely **Poolankaadu**, **Tharavai**, Naripulthottam, Vaharai, Indagala, Murippu, **Poonari Manthuwilnaadu**, **Paranthan**, Elephant pass and the Colombo Ministry Center are doing equally well. Children have shown vast improvement in studies, sports and other activities. Every child attending evening class receives an afternoon meal. This has impacted the development of the child and the CFCDP very much. There is vast improvement in the attendance of the children. Earlier, when NCML didn't have the means to provide meals, children living far from school wouldn't stay for evening classes. Understandably, they would want to reach home as early as possible to have their afternoon meal. But now, the feeding program has changed their work plan. They no longer rush home. Children are more regular than before. This has also helped the morning school. Children have to be present at morning school to attend evening classes. Absentees from morning school will not be allowed to participate in the evening activities. This was imposed by the school management. For this reason, children make sure they are in school in the morning. This has increased the number of days attended school by children very much. The school management and the local NCML staff are happy to have controlled children getting absent from school.

Training conducted.

Deviating from child development, NCML has invested fair amount of time in improving the lifestyles and living conditions of the elders in the community. Provide basic education and awareness on diseases, its effects and prevention, home gardening, livestock rearing and small businesses to generate income has been its main interest. NCML promotes a variety of activities and trainings that increase self-sufficiency to independently earn for the family. Chicken



rearing was one of them. Amongst the many trainings done for the parents, chicken rearing was mainly focused as it involves less investment. The parents of Poolankaadu, Tharavai, Pooneri Manthuwilnaadu and Pranthan CFCDP received this training. They are now well equipped to handle this project. The proposed project is to provide 20 chicken per selected household. They will be provided with one month old chicks that are expected to lay eggs in 6 months. We expect the family to have at least 16 eggs daily. We assume the family will sell 300 eggs a month that will earn them an extra income of Rs.5,000 roughly.

The mothers of Naripulthottam in Batticaloa have already received livestock. The project is currently underway. The owners of the project are well trained and we believe, if all remain in their favor they will earn the estimated extra income Rs.5000 in less than 5 months from now that will improve the wellbeing of the family. The increased income will no doubt reduce hunger, poverty, loans and purchase of commodities on credit. The people of Naripulthottam are extremely happy with the new project. They know they are relieved; they looked extraordinarily excited and happy.

Success story

Numbers increased in Elephant pass CFCDP.

NCML reported about the devastation Elephant Pass School and its people faced during the 30 years' war in its previous reports. Being the main gateway to the Northern Peninsula, both parties were fighting to capture Elephant pass. However it came under the control of both; the tigers and the Sri Lankan Army every so often.

The Elephant pass school moved location thrice before it settled at its present location. It had its first building constructed earlier this year. The school began functioning with just 25 children when it was initially set-up. Then eventually children began joining when families began returning to their villages. The numbers hadn't increased much when NCML approached this school to support. The school had less than 70 children when NCML initially engaged in developing the community and the children. It worked hard over 2 years to increase the numbers. Parents would hardly send children to school. They had lost hope and had no reason to be educated. It was difficult; never an easy task to console them and give them hope. It was a challenge for the field staff. However, through home visits and quality time spent with the families NCML succeeded in getting children back to school.

Now the school has 155 children enrolled and are regular participants of the CFCDP. They are no longer timid and frightened. They enjoy their evenings at the CFCDP.

NCML met with the school principal a few months back. He confirmed that it was NCMLs effort that brought so many children back to school. If not for the evening session, this school would have been suspended from operating; closed down due to insufficient number of children to run an institute. The different method of teaching and care given to children saved the school from a suspension. It paved the way for the children which subsequently saved the school.

We met with the parents too and they too were highly impressed with the progress the village school has thus far reached. Many parents thanked NCML for the evening class as there is no other after school help available for the children in the village. NCML is highly pleased with the progress of this school and will continue to serve them.