

POWERPROFILEPART-A ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

1. Name of the Organisation : People's Organisation for Welfare and Education in Rural. P.O.W.E.R.
2. Address of the Organisation : Power Society,
Kanai - 605 301,
Villupuram Taluk & District,
Tamil Nadu, India.
Phone : 91-04146-34209
3. Name of the Person responsible : Mr. P. Maria Anthony Raj
Secretary.
4. Legal Status of the Organisation : Registered Under the Tamil Nadu
Society's
Act of 1975.Regd.No.53/85 on
7th Nov. 1985.

Registered under the Foreign
Contribution regulation Act of 1976
with Government of India Ministry
of Home Affairs.
Regd. No.076010083/1986.

Tax Exempted under 12(A) of Income
Tax Act. PAN-AAATP 2852K
5. Bank Information : S.B. A/C No.1970 (For FCRA Only)
Corporation Bank, Mambalapattu-605301
Villupuram Taluk & District,
Tamil Nadu, India,
Joint Operation By:
The Secretary & the Treasurer.

6. Aims & Objectives of Organisation:

Vision: A Society with participatory democracy leading to sustainable development and respect for equality, justice and peace.

- * Facilitate to promote associations at village level by creating social awareness among the oppressed and down-trodden people to improve the standard of their living.
- * Promote and protect the human rights of the Dalits, women, children and the unorganised in the society.
- * Collect regenerable and reinforce the various traditional knowledges and indigeneous knowledges on agriculture, animal husbandry, herbal medicines, small savings environment, culture and communication, housing and other appropriate rural technologies.
- * Promote savings and credit among the rural community.
- * Facilitate the promotion of people's knowledge, experience and skills in the development activities and to adopt Alternative concept and participatory Action Research.
- * Facilitate promotion of women associations to establish policy changes towards equal rights and opportunities for women at all levels.
- * Promote Alternative Education among the various age group of children. So as to enable them to meet the challenges of their daily lives.
- * Promote sustainable development by creating awareness on natural resource management and protection of environment and ecology.

7. Origin of the Organisation:

POWER society is a Non Profitable, Non-Governmental Organisation founded by educated youths of Dalits (untouchables) in 1983 with a vision to build "A Society with Participatory Democracy, leading to Sustainable Development and respect for equality, justice and peace".

It is a well known fact that Villupuram District witnesses atrocities and oppressions on Dalits as the order of the day. The Dalits are socially alienated, economically weakened, politically oppressed and culturally backward. Communal clashes are a common phenomenon in the district. In this situation, we see the team members of POWER society belonging to the Dalit Community felt the need to organise ourselves systematically and constructively. When we felt the need to concentrate our work in organising our community we registered our society in 1985 and launched our Educational Campaigns systematically in 5 villages, new working in 35 villages.

For the past 15 years POWER society is playing a vital role to change the standards of our community politically, Socially, Economically and Culturally. To bring up these rural Dalits, POWER society has been organising them to form their own associations for men, women and children and give them Human Rights Education to act on reasons and train them in such ways that they should not be underestimated, exploited, alienated and ignored by the mainstream of underestimated our society.

8. PROJECT LOCATION:

The District of Villupuram extends over an area of 6,896 sq.m. in the coromandel coastal plain with access to the ports of Pondicherry and Cuddalore on the East. Generally it is a dry area with atmospheric temperature ranging from 25 C in December 40 C in the month of May. Land cultivation is dependent upon the rain from the North-East Monsoons during the months of October and November. Being drought-prone, the people in the area are subjected to severe water scarcity during the summer months. For a visitor coming from outside, December and January are the best months to travel to this area.

POWER society has its Registered Office at Kanai Village at a distance of 10 kilometers from Villuputam is the District Headquarters located about 150 kilometers from the State capital of Chennai on the south-bound National Highway 45. All the long distance buses from Chennai to the Southern cities of Trichirappalli and Madurai pass through Villupuram. Villupuram is also an important Railway Junction where all the trains from Chennai going down South stop. From Villupuram to Kanai it takes 30 minutes by bus.

9. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

As we have started our educational campaigns in five villages in 1985 we have educated and motivated and made realisation among the Dalits about their problems, issues and atrocities through street meeting, leadership Trainings and cultural programmes as a result we have formed youth and Women associations in 35 villages. In each and every association a minimum level of 75 are became members in the association. Through participatory Action Research Methodology the respective village associations analysed, discussed and planned their strategies to be adopted related with their community and village issues and problems in the micro and macro level.

As a result of the effective functioning of the associations in the village levels we have integrated the 35 village youth association into a Dalit people's Movement named Dr. Ambedhkar Progressive forum: In which 1234 youths are members. A managing committee is also elected by the members. Now it functions effectively. This movement developed its relationship with other radical movements functioning in the District and state levels. The radical movements federated themselves in the state level called as CASTE ABOLITION FRONT.

As a result the Front organised several rallies and campaigns on Reservation for Dalits in the Private sector, Separate Electoral System proposed by Dr. Ambedhkar, Implementation of SC & ST Atrocities Act, condemn rally against the Impact of New Economic policy, the Melavalavu assassination of six Dalits who were tried to capture the power in the local panchayat election, the southern region caste riot etc. Before launching programme in this target area there were no Dalit Organisation.

Apart from the above macro level action of the Dalit movement it has also taken the following issues.

It is a well known fact that there are two sectors in the villages one is the caste Hindu Village and the another one is the Dalit settlement, the latter lacks all the basic facilities where the Dalit settlement, the latter lacks all the basic facilities where the Dalit people live in a congested, un hygienic and unhealthy situation. Generally all the Government institutions such as post office, ration shop, balwadi,

Panchayat Building and drinking water over head tank are functioning in the caste Hindu area. Due to our continued motivation of the Dalit movement separated the ration shops from the caste Hindu area and got functioning their areas. Foundation for the new building were shifted to the common centre place of the village.

The income from the common assets of the villages has been enjoyed only by the caste Hindus and the Dalits are denied to get share. The associations taken the issues and got share in the common assets of the village.

There are common lands for the Dalits and the caste Hindus, In many villages the lands occupied and enjoyed by the caste Hindus the movement taken efforts and redeem the lands for the common use of the Dalits.

The youth and women association leaders approaching the government institutions individually and mobilised various welfare schemes for their community. The movement taken the wage issues and got increment in their own village.

The religious fundamentalist and its fanaticism reached a high level. There is no security for the Muslims and Christians Dalits. (i.e.,) The minorities their worship places were damaged and are brutally attacked by the Hindu imperialists to condemn this inhuman practices by joining with other Dalit movements in this district we have organised condemn rally in this district head quarters.

The women folk are triple oppressed sector we have concentrated more on them by forming women association in their villages through this association they have taken village level problems issues, minimum wages, equal remuneration gender issues and reached a level of stage to take decision making process of the community. Every year the women celebrating international Women's day and showing their strength and unity to the male dominated society.

Economic development is also necessary for the women therefore the women launched small savings and credit. In 21 villages the women saved Rs.5,000 to Rs. 10,000/-

Apart from the gender issue the women are also taken issues related with their own Dalit community. They were equally participated with men in

all the rallies and campaigns.

In January 1999 the 35 village women association's are integrated into a women's movement called "PROLITAERIAN WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT FORUM" in which 931 women are the members. They elected a Managing committee for their own by voting.

The Childrens rights are also Human Rights therefore for the protection of children and to abolish child labour In 1993 and in 1996 organised a huge rally with 2000 working children with the participation of youth and women association of 500 members. In 1997 poster campaign were Organised to stress the universalisation of Elementary Education.

Due to Environment degradation the rural areas are got severe drought due to the landless Dalits are affected a lot therefore we have made the community to have their own control on the common Natural resources of the village such as land, water and water resources like pond, lake, canals.

The Dalits are considered as untouchables therefore their valuable cultural resources like arts music, dance and their cultural values are being considered as untouchables. Therefore we have organised Dalit cultural festival in 6 important places in the district.

The above mentioned are supposed to be programmes and activities that should have been carried out normally, but due to careful and planned delineation, these appear to be great achievements for the Dalits, but to POWER this has become a part of daily life, for these are the ingredients to realise and avail legitimate entitlements which has been so in the last 10 years.

Prior to taking to these categories of these services, POWER conducts a series of training orientation simulation exercise and mock demos to the affected Dalits and prepares them to face the even and win their case and cause. They are as follows.

10.

S.No.	Activities	Nos.	Villages	Families
1.	Formation of Youth Associations	31	35	175
2.	Formation of Women Associations	28	31	175
3.	Mobilisation of Government Welfare schemes for Dalits	113	15	30,000
4.	Campaigns, rallies for Highlighting Dalit Human rights & Violations	26	35	70,000
5.	Networking & Co-Ordination	70	35	70,000
6.	Motivation & Awareness Training	700	35	70,000
7.	Leadership Training	700	35	70,000
8.	Setting up public distribution system	1	1	200
9.	Safe guarding Dalit community land 2 acres	1	1	250
10.	Availing relief for natural calamities		15	30,000
11.	Welfare schemes for the Dalit destitutes and aged	41	35	70,000

11. LIST OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

1. Human rights education through leadership training street meetings and cultural programmes.
2. Human rights Monitoring and Documentation programmes.
3. Cultural programmes through folk forms.
4. Campaigns: On concerns for women, children Dalits and tribal development.
5. Research and documentation on indigenous social systems and resources.
6. Formation and Networking of youth and women association in to a people's movement.
7. Small savings and credit for women.
8. Health care activities.
9. Mobilisation of government Welfare Schemes and programmes.

12. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE / ADMINISTRATION STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

List of Board of Directors with demographic information

Sl. No.	Name and Address	Designation	Gender	Occupation	Qualification
1.	Mr. A. Martin s/o Kannan Arockiadass Kalpattu - 605 302. Villupuram TK. & Dist.,	President	Male	Full Time Worker, POWER Society	Hr. Sec.
2.	Mr. P. Amirtham s/o Ponnalasu Arkadu & Post, Thirukoilur TK. Villuputam Dist.-605 755	Vice- President	Male	Working in a pri- vate sector	Diploma in Agriculture Technology
3.	Mr. P. Maria Anthony Raj s/o Parianayagam Main Road, Kanai & Post Villupuram Dist.-605 301.	Secretary	Male	Teacher	B.A., B.Ed.,
4.	Mr. A. Prakash Raj s/o Easadiyar Mugaiyur & Post, Thirukoilur TK. Villupuram Dist.-605 755.	Treasurer	Male	Social Worker NGO	M.A.,
5.	Mr. M. Vijaya D/o Maria Susai 28, Balasubramaniam Layout Magarajapuram, Villupuram Dist.,	Executive Committee Member	Female	Noon Meal Organiser	M.A.,
6.	Mr. P. Jesumari D/O Perianayagam 21, South Ayyanar Kulam Kulam St., Villuputam Dist.,	EC Member	Female	Trailoring Instructor	Hr. Sec. Diploma in Trailoring
7.	Mrs. M. Mary Celin D/O Mathakanikkam Mugaiyur M. Road (po) Thirukoilur TK. Villupuram Dist.-605 755.	EC Member	Female	Full Time Volunteer	B.Sc., B.Ed.,