

PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

ANNUAL REPORT 1985

P. C. O. Centre, Spencer Junction, Trivandrum 695039, India

PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

ANNUAL REPORT — 1985

Friends,

We are indeed happy to present before you the detailed report of our activities during the year 1985. It has been a year of transition and change—well established old forms were shattered and new alternatives have yet to emerge; new contradictions have arisen but we have not fully grasped their meaning. The well beaten track along which we have traversed may need to be widened and its direction slightly shifted. In what follows we hope to indicate to you our actions of the last year and our thoughts about the coming ones.

THE FISHERIES SECTOR

This year was an important landmark in Kerala's fisheries sector. Though the fish production is reported to have been less than in 1984, there was no slackening in the level of activity or scale of private investment in the sector. Government intervention in the form of regulations, welfare and development assistance was also on the increase.

This phenomenon of increased investment (and hence increased fishing pressure) yielding lower fish catches has brought with it many conflicts that have had their deep impact on the life of every fish worker.

In the first half of the decade, the conflict was largely between the operators trawlers/purse seiners and those using the traditional techniques. The scenario of 1985 indicates that while

conflicts will escalate it will now be more between those using traditional techniques.

In response to the stagnation in production and incomes, traditional fishermen have gone in a big way for motorisation aided by bank credit and Government subsidies. However, because of the under-employment in the sector, there is no reduction in the labour force participation—in fact there may even be an increase—consequent to motorisation. The result is that a very marginally higher productivity is attained at substantially higher operating and capital costs. Also, since the fishing area has not expanded, the pressure on the resource is now even greater. Those who had a head start on the motorisation have made larger short term gains. In order to maintain the lead, they are forced to invest more and innovate more. A clearly visible process of differentiation is now taking place even among the Kattamaran fishermen among whom poverty was fairly evenly distributed. The effect of all this on women involved in fish marketing has also been substantial—they are confronted with a situation of less fish and more hard work.

The social consequence of these trends which raised their head very clearly in 1985 will have deep long term implications for the work and the involvement of non-governmental agencies working closely with the fish workers of Kerala. In our understanding, the problems in the fisheries sector can no more be solved by making technological and organisational changes within the sector alone. The

councils of village level organisations so that action on the issues we take up are both quicker and widespread.

d. The work among the young school going children needs to be re-emphasised for the future. In their hands and through their understanding alone can we ensure that the trends in fisheries will not go out of the hands of the workers. While character formation and group orientation is important an early understanding and appreciation of the trends, potentials and problems in the fishing sector is also vital.

e. The need for greater funding from internal sources is also an important organisational change that must be hastened. In 1985 we did make a beginning by having our research funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research in New Delhi. The prospects of much greater funding from governmental sources was also brighter with the new policy on involvement of voluntary organisations in implementing some of the government plan schemes. We hope to make big

head way in this matter in the coming years.

f. Finally and most importantly we see the need to link up the problems faced in the fishery sector with those confronted by the socio-economic problems of the whole State and the Country. The international ramifications are also important. The pursuit for all solution to fishworkers' problems within the confines of the fish economy is no more desirable and we therefore need to widen our own horizons and probably the coverage of our activities. Considerable thought needs to be given to this perspective.

To ensure that we make progress on all these fronts the dynamism of our organisation is essential. For this we depend wholly on all the people with whom we closely interact, from whom we learn, get criticisms, courage and encouragement. This report would be incomplete if we do not place on record our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our members who have done all this in 1985. We rest assured that more of the same will be forthcoming in the future.

Ms. Aleyamma Vijayan
(Co-ordinator)

Ms. Sheela Paul
(Secretary)

(On behalf of the Managing committee.)

APPENDIX I

Self Help Housing for the Poor A Brief Summary of an Evaluation

Housing has long been an important form of social investment in Kerala's development programmes. Some major attempts in Kerala at providing inexpensive houses for people from the weaker sections of society have attracted widespread attention. The famous one-lakh housing scheme was one such.

There have been many complaints about housing schemes for the poor. That the cost estimates are unrealistic; the construction of poor quality; models stereotyped and that there is no real participation by the beneficiaries have been some of the main criticisms. Partly as a response to this, the Government of Kerala initiated in 1984 a scheme for building 25,000 houses for the weaker section in which voluntary organisations working closely with people were asked to collaborate to ensure popular participation and provide some financial assistance.

Details of the Scheme

This housing scheme was restricted to those from the weaker sections of society who had at least a minimum of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents of land in their possession. The total aid per beneficiary was Rs. 6000/-. Of this Rs. 1000/- was a grant from the voluntary agency and Rs. 1000/- a grant from the Government. The remaining Rs. 4000/- was to be treated as a loan to be repayed in 9 years at 5% interest. The voluntary agencies' contribution was to be deposited in advance with the Kerala State Housing Board.

The Programme for Community Organisation (PCO) an organisation which has

had long years of involvement in development work in Trivandrum District was one such voluntary organisation selected by the Government to sponsor the construction of 225 houses. PCO therefore deposited a sum of Rs. 2.25 lakhs with the KSHB. This fund was a grant from NOVIB, a secular funding agency in the Netherlands. What follows is PCO's evaluation of this experience based on a random sampling basis.

Profile of the Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the PCO sponsored houses were mainly from Trivandrum District and composed of households with the following occupations: fishing and fish vending (68 percent); wage employees in hotels, construction site etc. (17 percent); self employed persons (12 percent); reed workers (3 percent). Their pattern of land holdings clearly indicates that they are indeed from the lower economic classes of rural Kerala: two-thirds had only between $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 cents of land of their own and just one third had more than that. The former category were mainly from the coastal villages. Nearly all the beneficiaries lived in thatched huts before opting to join the scheme.

Details of the Houses Constructed

PCO's initial plan for central co-ordination of the house building activity at least for common purchase of materials in order to reduce the costs did not materialise. There was a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the beneficiaries to this proposal partly because practically none of

them wanted to adhere to the models and construction specifications suggested by the KSHB. The vast differences in the building material availability in the coastal villages and the interior villages was also another factor that made bulk purchase of these items impractical. The most interesting features with regard to the actual construction of the houses was the very wide degree of variations of each of the houses from the KSHB model plan. This is not only with respect to the size of the house (plinth area) but also to matters like the material used for walls; the plastering of the walls; the nature of the flooring and the roof; as well as the contribution of one's own labour in the construction. While on all the above factors variations between each of the houses were apparent, the most significant difference was with respect to the group of houses in the coastal villages and those in the interior villages.

Low Budget-High Cost

When the KSHB budgets the 21 square metre house at Rs. 6000/- it assumes that old or locally available (old reapers, door frames, mud etc.) and some free labour will be contributed. While this may be a desirable thing it is hardly practical in the coastal villages where 80 percent of the houses sponsored by PCO were built. The result was that hardly 3 percent of the beneficiaries did complete their houses in the stated specifications and budgeted amount.

It must be mentioned that over 80 percent did not restrict their construction to the recommended plinth area. Hence part of the enhanced cost incurred by them was due to their own conscious decision to build a bigger house.

Investment in Housing and Indebtedness

It is interesting to note that most beneficiaries invested in housing knowing

fully well that the fund allotted in the scheme would be insufficient and that they would have to use some of their own savings or even borrow money at high interest.

Only 6 percent of the beneficiaries completed their house investing less than Rs. 10,000/-. Two thirds of them spent more than Rs. 15,000 each. Only 12 percent did not have their own savings to add on to the Rs. 6000/- of the scheme. Only one third had more than Rs. 4000/- as their own saving and another third had between Rs. 1000 and Rs. 4000.

As a consequence all except 3 percent of the beneficiaries had to borrow money from friends and neighbours to make-up for the gap between the cash in hand and the final cost of the construction. Over half had to borrow over Rs. 6000/- at interest rates between 24 and 36 percent.

Beneficiary's own Evaluation of the Scheme

Housing was a priority item in the list of basic needs of the beneficiaries in our survey. This is apparent from the fact that 94 percent of the beneficiaries said that they would not have ventured to construct a house were it not for the present programme. They were all happy to receive the encouragement and assistance of the PCO and the Government.

Between this encouragement and the final achievement of having one's own house there were many problems confronted by the beneficiaries which they stated very frankly. Most of these related to bureaucratic delays, formalities, corruption and bad communications on the part of the many agencies/organisations which the beneficiaries came into contact during the course of the house building activities.

The Kerala State Housing Board was the target of much criticism. Delay in

sanctioning of the instalment; loss of documents supplied to them resulting in their sending irksome reminders due to their own lack of proper accounting; insistence on repayments only through certain banks etc. were some of the complaints.

Government officials such as Village Officers and Sub Registrars were singled out for the lack of co-operation and undue harassment of the beneficiaries. It was very clearly pointed out that many of them demanded illegal gratification without which important and indispensable document like stage certificates would not be signed. The few beneficiaries who had to obtain cement permits also had similar complaints about the officials in the Collectorate.

The PCO was also not above criticism. A small number of the beneficiaries stated that they got the impression that whole Rs. 6,000/- would be given as a subsidy and hence took on the programme. Bad

communications, lack of proper and detailed explanations was pointed out as the cause for this misunderstanding.

One common view expressed during the evaluation was that most beneficiaries were happy that they could avail of this benefit without having to go to the traditional politicians.

Suggestions for the future

One of the important questions to beneficiaries pertained to the suggestions they had to offer about the whole scheme. The three most important of these were:

- a. That the loan amount should be enhanced to at least Rs. 10,000/- if it is to be realistic to the costs of constructions.
- b. That the number of agencies with which the beneficiary should deal be reduced to just two
- c. That there be more models from which to choose

Note: A more detailed evaluation is available with the PCO

APPENDIX II

Details of the major financial assistance given in 1985

<u>Organisations groups</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Mampally Fishermen Service Society	35,000.00	To purchase office—cum—meeting place
Fatimapuram Fishermen Service Society	2,000.00	To construct a shed
Anjengo Maithry Mahila samajam	31,006.00	To construct a nursery school—cum—meeting place and a well
Valiathura } Mahila Vizhinjam } samajams	9,200.00	To construct 60 latrines (1/3 subsidy)
Marianad Mahila samajam	2,000.00	Grant
Erayimanthura Fishermen Service Society	5,000.00	Seed capital
Valiathura Fishermen's Service Society	5,500.00	To construct 22 huts for the fishermen who lost their houses in sea erosion

APPENDIX III

The Training Programmes conducted in 1985

Month	Details	Number of Participants	Programme details & Topics discussed
Jan. 1985	Committee members of fishermen co-operative Societies	34	Objectives of co-operative societies. Trends in the Fisheries sector
	Children (age group 10-17) from Balavikasana groups of coastal Trivandram District (2 days)	200	Children's festival— Sports competition, variety entertainment programme, picnic.
	Activists from Kerala and K. K. District of Tamil Nadu	50	Liberation theology and recent happenings in Nicaragua by Fr. F. Houtart, Tricontinental Centre, Belgium.
	Fishermen leaders from costal villages of Tvm.	50	Fish resource depletion. Causes and possible alternatives
Feb. '85	Activists, scientists and fishermen leaders	40	Fish-bowl Discussion (See Annual Report)
	Nursery Teachers' seminar (3 days)	16	News review; children & balanced diet; Action songs.
	Committee members of fishermen societies	54	Problems faced by fishermen, scientific understanding & analysis of these; summarising the experimental knowledge of fishermen on sea & sea life.
March '85	Women from different women's Organisations of coastal area and reed workers	160	Status of women in Nampoothiri & Muslim communities; Problems of women of fishing community (through a skit and songs); Energy conservation
	Committee members of fishermen societies	54	Functioning and programmes of TDFP the district fishermen's federation
	Staff of the societies	15	On conducting committee meetings
	Girls from Vettukad youth group	10	Themes of youth year, detailed planning of activities for the coming year.
	Youth volunteers who are organising tuition programmes in villages	27	Child psychology, stages of development of children, child pedagogy

Month	Details	Number of Participants	Programme details & Topics discussed
April '85	Children from coastal & interior villages (from fishing & reed workers families) in 4 batches for age group 10-15 (5 days each)	30	Group dynamics; sea & living resources; health & hygiene; lives of great leaders. Extra curricular activities. Outings to children's Museum; Science & Technology Museum, All India Radio Station etc.
		44	
		25	
		35	
	Nominees of fishermen societies	12	Role of nominees in fishermen societies. Democratic process in committee meetings etc.
	Fishermen leaders (3days)	20	Group dynamics - leadership skills
	Committee members of the fishermen societies	30	Collaboration between various people's Organisations - need and how to effectively implement it
May '85	Women fish vendors from Veli	56	Women's issues (Double burden of work, exploitation in marriage) Nutritional needs of woman & children-local issues
	Youth from 5 village for a 7 day camp	10	Social awareness problems of fisheries, Social & historical analysis etc
	Fishermen leaders from all the villages in Tvm.	60	How to strengthen Organisational work among fishermen; identifying issues of immediate concern at local level
	Staff of the societies	15	Role of staff in co-operation
June '85	Committee members of societies	30	Duties & responsibilities of committee members through role play & discussions
	Women health workers from Anjengo area	15	Responsibility of primary health workers. social aspects of health. community approach to health care etc.
	Fishermen from all over Trivandrum for a one day Seminar	160	Governments approach to the problem of the fisheries sector - analysis of schemes and programmes.
July '85	Youth from 8 fishing villages for a 20 days programme	24	Indian situation - Socio-political & historical analysis; problems of fisheries sector; why people's Organisation, co-operative societies aims, objectives, administration etc.

Month	Details	Number of Participants	Programme details & Topics discussed
	Committee members of Mahilasamajam	48	Marianad problem - Evaluation of what is done locally regarding the consciousness of women's issues
	Committee members of societies	46	On collaboration between various people's Organisations
	Members of Anjengo & Mampally societies	40	Kalawar commission report
	PCO-full timers evaluation (3 days)	15	Group process-evaluation
	,, (2 days)	11	Activities in relation to the objectives of the Organisation; evaluation
	Women fish vendors of Eraviputhenthura credit union - Seminar at Chunkakadai	100	Family life—role of women issues and problems
	Youth who are associated with supervised study centres	21	Analysis of educational backwardness of coastal villages—possibility of action
August '85	Committee members of fishermen societies	50	Problems of societies, cuttle fish marketing; Marianad problem
Sept. '85	Youth—follow up seminar	19	Reporting of their local involvement, Marianad issue
Octo. '85	Clerks of the societies	11	Planning how to make the sessions effective—Recent trends on fisheries sector
Nove. '85	Committee members of fishermen societies	35	Fish marketing Bill, SIFFS & Malsya-fed; evaluation of functions of OBM workshop
	Clerks of societies	10	Fish marketing Bill
	Nursery Teachers Seminar	20	Communication and religion; News review; Marianad issue
	Woven animators of FCDP—Quilon	40	Group dynamics; leadership skills; role and responsibilities of animators; problems of women fish vendors; Organisational skills
	Youth from Valiathura	21	Child psychology
Dece. '85	Committee members of fishermen societies	28	Election in societies—How to conduct it, criteria of eligibility etc.

Month	Details	Number of Participants	Programme details & Topics discussed
	Women fish vendors—representing all samajams	60	Evaluation of work done to raise consciousness on women's issues at the local level—new problems & suggestions
	Fishermen leaders from all the villages	100	How to strengthen fishermen's Organisations; identification of local issues for action in the coming year
	Youth at Valiathura	21	Faith and religion
	Children's seminar at Valiathura	40	Nature observation; children's role in family; children and health

APPENDIX IV

Details of Seminars, Training Programme and study groups attended by staff members and full members of the organisation

1. Ms. Nalini Nayak : Participated as a member of a tripartite study group on fishworkers organised by the Ministry of Labour, new Delhi
2. Mr. A. J. Vijayan : Participated in a national seminar on worker's education sponsored by the Ministry of Labour, new Delhi
3. Ms. Aleyamma Vijayan, Mr. P. J. Varkey and Ms. Nirmala : Participated in the annual seminar of the Programme for Social Action held in Bangalore
4. Ms. Baby and Mr. Robert : Attended a workshop to study puppetry at Mitraneketan
5. Ms. Aleyamma Vijayan, Ms. Marykutty, Ms. Zeeta and three other women workers : Participated in a Women's convention at Mangaram organised by Grameena Vanitha Prasthanam, Tiruvalla
6. Ms. Nalini Nayak and Fr. James Culas : Attended a workshop on the History of the Independence Struggle at Poona organised by TDSS-Poona
7. Ms. Nalini Nayak and Ms. Aleyamma Vijayan : Participated in the All Kerala Women's Conference held in Trivandrum

crisis will only increase in the future if we do not appreciate this perspective.

While we take stock of the activities we conducted in 1985, we shall also try to focus attention on the direction and thrust of our programmes for the future.

1. DEVELOPMENT ACTION AND MOBILISATION

a. Fishermen's Societies

There have been 12 fishermen's societies functioning in Trivandrum District and 2 in Kanyakumari District with whom we have over time established close contact. From Mampally in the north to Thoothoor in the south, these societies have a primary membership of 2000 fishermen representing a population of over 14,000 persons.

During the year, these societies joined together to form a district federation called Trivandrum District Fishermen Federation and in turn affiliated themselves to the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) which is now an apex body consisting of two more federations of Quilon and Kanyakumari. This re-organisation has helped to systematise the day-to-day functioning of these societies—accounting, marketing, credit programmes etc. The work of animating the society committees and interacting with the members was continued by PCO's Community Organisers. There were six persons doing this at the beginning of the year but unfortunately due to a variety of reasons their experiences were not positive and all but one of them had to be relinquished of their duties. This had made us think about our policies for community organisers, our service conditions and the very important factor of lack of experienced organisers who can give guidance to new recruits.

Major changes have taken place in the fishermen's society and house building society in Marianad depriving them of their character as true democratic people's organisations. This was achieved by an alliance of the established church and local political groups using brute force to create a reign of terror in the village. This has been very demoralising to the whole movement of the fishermen but has also been an equally important learning experience for many in the village. While they have been physically suppressed for the moment, it is our belief that the spirit of people's initiatives in Marianad will slowly but surely prevail against the proponents of the established structures who attempt to propagate a rule reminiscent of feudal days. On our part in the PCO we have been challenged by this situation to reflect on our history of involvement and learn lessons for the future. Questions relating to our attitude to the Catholic church; our approach to organising people; our emphasis on economic programmes; and the patterns of village-level processes and leadership building we adopted have been raised by these happenings.

All the other societies have had their ups and downs during the year partly reflecting their own weaknesses and largely the influences of the external environment which was much beyond their control. A common factor shared by many was the attempt to establish themselves more firmly in the villages by purchasing office space.

In Mampally after overcoming some internal differences over selection of a suitable building, the society acquired its own office-cum-meeting place with our financial assistance. A new society was started at Puthucurichy in the beginning of the year but could not continue to function due to the problems in Marianad which is the neighbouring village. The

Annual Accounts
For the year
1985

Programme For Community Organisation, Spencer Junction, Trivandrum
Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended 31st December 1985

Receipts		Payments	
	Rs.		Rs. Ps.
To Opening Balance		By Salary, Honoraria and allowances	1,91,196.01
Cash in hand	13,705.64	By Grants and Donations	
Cash in Bank	3,39,656.01	Mampally F. S. S.	35,000.00
To Donation and Contribution		Erayimanthura F. S. S.	5,000.00
Entraide at fraternite	1,43,762.20	Marianad Mahila Samajam	2,000.00
APHD	6,080.80	SEWA	1,100.00
Others	16,602.25	Administration	2,160.00
To Interest		Latrine Scheme	8,080.50
To Admission and Membership fees			53,340.50
		By Programme Expenses	
To Housing		Training Programmes	44,444.47
Beneficiaries Contribution	18,000.00	Children's camp	16,851.27
Loan repayment collection	26,452.00	Vacation Tuition Programmes and other educational programmes	4,287.50
To Miscellaneous receipt			
		Women's Programmes	7,035.94
To Advance repayments		Women's day celebrations	2,206.95
SEWA	25,000.00	Meetings and Seminars	1,942.90
Mampally F. S. S.	33,000.00	Educational materials and slides	7,066.95
Individuals	1,380.00		83,835.98
C/F		C/F	3,28,372.49

Receipts		Payments	
B/F	Rs. Ps.	B/F	Rs. Ps.
	6,30,901.25	By Housing Account	
		Beneficiaries contribution repaid	22,525.00
		Housing loan repaid	17,547.00
		Housing Board (Deposit)	<u>1,000.00</u>
			41,072.00
		By Capital Expenses	
		Nursery Building at Anjengo	31,006.06
		Library books and periodicals	1,171.13
		Furniture	<u>4,843.60</u>
			37,020.79
		By Administrative Expenses	28,775.66
		By Miscellaneous items	
		Documentation charges	1,543.15
		Interest	<u>280.60</u>
			1,823.75
		By Advances	
		Pulluvila Mahila Samajam	2,000.00
		SEWA	4,000.00
		Anjengo Mahila Samajam	3,739.00
		Purchase of cement	6,127.50
		Individuals	<u>6,644.00</u>
			22,510.50
		By Closing Balance	
		Cash in hand	5,007.59
		Cash in Bank	1,63,318.47
		Cash in Bank (F. D A/c)	<u>3,000.00</u>
			1,71,326.06
TOTAL	<u>6,30,901.25</u>	TOTAL	<u>6,30,901.25</u>

Programme for Community Organisation, Spencer Junction, Trivandrum
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st December 1985

Expenditure		Income	
	Rs. Ps.		Rs. Ps.
To Salaries, Honoraria and Allowances	1,91,196.01	By Donation and Contribution	3,01,221.37
To Grants and Donations to people's organisations	53,340.50	By Admission fee for library membership and Membership fee of P. C. O.	431.00
To Programme expenses	76,769.03	By Housing loan repayment	8,905.00
To Housing Account	5,525.00	By Bank Interest	5,379.35
To Capital expenses (Materials, slides and library books)	6,671.13	By Miscellaneous receipts	1,452.00
To Administrative expenses	30,342.61	By Excess expenditure over income	53,705.91
To Miscellaneous items	1,823.75		
To Depreciation	5,426.60		
TOTAL	<u><u>3,71,094.63</u></u>	TOTAL	<u><u>3,71,094.63</u></u>

Programme for community Organisation, Spencer Junction, Trivandrum
Balance Sheet as on 31st December 1985

Liabilities		Assets	
	Rs. Ps.		Rs. Ps.
Loans and Advances		FIXED ASSETS:	
General Fund:		Land and Building	
As per Last Balance Sheet	4,28,351.13	As per Last Balance Sheet	7,70,321.62
LESS: Excess of Expenditure		ADD: Addition during the year	31,006.06
Over Income	53,705.91	Furniture and Fittings:	
Building Fund:		As per Last Balance Sheet	24,898.00
As per Last Balance Sheet	8,49,556.79	ADD: Addition during the year	4,843.60
Contribution to Provident Fund:			29,741.60
As per last Balance Sheet	17,705.50	LESS: Depreciation for the year	2,974.90
ADD: Addition during the year	1,197.50	Typewriter:	
Donation and Contribution:		As per Last Balance Sheet	5,153.00
Received in advance	1,14,405.11	LESS: Depreciation for the year	515.00
		Film Projector:	
		As per Last Balance Sheet	8,200.00
		LESS: Depreciation for the year	820.00
		Library Materials:	
		As per Last Balance Sheet	11,169.00
		LESS: Depreciation for the year	1,117.00
C/F	14,23,510.12		10,052.00
			8,50,164.68

Liabilities		Assets	
	Rs.	Rs.	Ps.
B/F	14,23,510.12	B/F	8,50,164.68
		CURRENT ASSETS:-	
		Loans and Advances	3,83,116.38
		Contribution to Provident Fund	18,903.00
		Closing Balances:	
		Cash in hand	5,007.59
		On S. B. A/c.	1,63,318.47
		On F. D. A/c.	3,000.00
			<u>1,71,326.06</u>
TOTAL	<u>14,23,510.12</u>	TOTAL	<u>14,23,510.12</u>

AUDITORS REPORT: Verified and found to be in conformity with the books of accounts produced before us.

Sd./-
Secretary.

TRIVANDRUM,
13-2-1986.

SEAL

For THANKKAPPAN & MADHU,
Chartered Accountants

Sd/-

K. S. MADHU, B. Sc., F. C. A.,
Partner.

Full Members Active During 1985

1. **Mr. Eugene Culas,**
Cantonment, Trivandrum
2. **Ms. Nalini Nayak,**
Pottakuzhy Junction, Trivandrum
3. **Mr. John Kurien,**
Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum
4. **Sr. Helena,**
Karodu, K. K. District
5. **Sr. Leelamma Jacob,**
Nagercoil, K. K. District
6. **Sr. Alphonsa,**
Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu
7. **Mr. A. J. Vijayan,**
Rishimangalam, Trivandrum
8. **Mr. S. Franklin,**
Vallathope, Trivandrum
9. **Ms. Sheela Paul,**
Kochuveli, Trivandrum
10. **Fr. Thomas Kochery,**
Palluruthy, Cochin
11. **Mr. K. Narayanan Nair,**
Centre for Development Studies,
Trivandrum
12. **Mr. P. K. Michael Tharakan,**
Centre for Development Studies,
Trivandrum
13. **Fr. James Culas,**
Thachancode,
Trivandrum
14. **Mr. S. Raymond,**
Eraviputhenthura,
K. K. District
15. **Ms. Aleyamma Vijayan,**
Rishimangalam, Trivandrum
16. **Mr. Elphege Tajan,**
Puthenthope, Trivandrum
17. **Mr. T. R. Thankappan Achari,**
Kumarapuram, Trivandrum
18. **Mr. Marydasan,**
Puthenthope, Trivandrum
19. **V. C. Das,**
Thope, Trivandrum.

Advisory Council Members

1. **Rev. M. J. Joseph,**
Thiruvalla
2. **Adv. Chirayinkil Shamsudeen,**
Vanchiyoar, Trivandrum
3. **Dr. Manu Bhaskar,**
Kariavattom, Trivandrum
4. **Mr. R. Philip,**
Puthiathura,
Trivandrum
5. **Fr. A. George,**
Gas House Junction,
Trivandrum

Fathimapuram society which was temporarily closed down in 1984, started functioning again. A temporary shed was constructed to be used as an office.

The Vettucaud society which is doing its fishery related activities well, got involved in organising an "Onam market" and met with a financial loss because the rice supplied by the Civil Supplies Corporation was of poor quality. This did have a demoralising effect but did not detract from their initiatives to reorganise their village fish auctioning centre and also acquired their own office building.

The Vizhinjam society members were involved in a confrontation with a local merchant who had cheated them of money. Since the merchant had the support of the village power structure there was some apprehension that the consequence of the Police case would create conflicts particularly with the church. However the fishermen are unanimous that they will fight the issue to the end.

The Pulluvila society is still under the administrative committee since the Department of Fisheries has not proceeded with conducting the elections. The Eramainthura society purchased its own office building and continues to be actively pursuing its involvement in the village.

The Karimkulam society attempted to strengthen its marketing activity by bidding for the rights to collect the "church taxes". This move did create some concern among the team at PCO for there was a considerable difference of opinion about the wisdom of the move to link the activities of the church with that of the functioning of the fishermen's society.

All the other societies not particularly mentioned were active with their routine programmes. The Managing

Committee of the PCO has had discussions with the committees of many of the societies on various matters of concern. The crisis in the fisheries sector was well reflected in all the village societies particularly with respect to the problem arising from a fall in the fish production. Fishermen who once had implicit faith in the limitless bounty of the sea were now acutely aware about the fallacy of this belief. This awareness, as well as a proper understanding of its causes, we consider to be the first and important step in taking measures to solve the problem.

The General Body of the PCO in November 1985 which had discussed the question of reorientation of the focus of activities of the PCO decided that from 1986 onward PCO should reduce its stress on providing financial assistance to fishermen societies. This could now be effectively undertaken by their own apex organisations like TDFF and SIFFS. The General Body was of the opinion that PCO should lay greater emphasis on the animation of the co-operative society committees and provide opportunities for training more of the members.

b. Women's Activities

i. Work with Samajams: During the year our contact continued with the 18 women's groups of which 17 are in coastal villages and one in an interior village. A total of 800 women can be considered as active members of these groups and samajams.

We had a team of 15 animators, of whom 5 were directly employed by the PCO. They took the initiative to assist the women's groups to carry out their regular functioning which included monthly meetings; savings and loan schemes, and nursery schools in some areas.

Monthly meetings of all the groups are held at which issues closely related to their lives and work were discussed. These included matters pertaining to health; their role as housewives and citizens; their work as fish vendors and so forth. To aid discussions, two sets of slides were prepared on questions pertaining to health and hygiene with particular reference to the prevention and cure of diarrhoea and scabies.

Involvement with the women did not stop with discussions. The awareness of local issues and the need to respond to each in the appropriate manner has always been important concern of the women's groups. In 1985 they collectively organised to take up the question of unfair market taxes (villages in Trivandrum District north) and the need for a road to the market (Thumba). At Anjengo the Mahila Samajam took charge of a new nursery school building and well constructed with assistance from the PCO. In Valiathura and Vizhinjam about 60 latrines were constructed largely with their own funds and a small subsidy from the PCO amounting to one third the construction cost. In many of the samajams the women have small savings schemes which facilitate easier repayment of the loans they take from private sources and banks. Non-availability of cheap credit remains a big problem for most women. However in 1985 we did see some welcome change in the policy of banks towards credit to women workers. Many of the women's groups are enthusiastic about the programme to instal the smokeless choolas. However some unexpected difficulties encountered by the implementing agency—KSSP—has slowed down this process.

ii. Women's Day Celebrations: International women's day was celebrated on March 10th in which 160 women representing 20 villages participated. The situation

of women in Muslim and Nampoothiri families were explained by the speakers. Women animators staged a play on the problems of early marriage; violence in marriage; evils of dowry system etc. The women presented feminist songs which they themselves had composed. The question of energy requirements for cooking was discussed with the aid of posters and demonstrations of different models of smokeless choolahs.

iii. Self Employed Women's Association: (SEWA)

SEWA which was dormant for sometime was reactivated in 1985. Two full time animators assist in the various activities. Because of the difficulty in getting bank loans, SEWA started a small 'savings bank' in Vettucaud. Twenty shareholders each take a maximum of five shares, each worth Rs. 20/-. On this collateral security credit is extended to those in need at the rate of Rs. 100/- for every share held. Rs. 30/- will be paid back every month at 12% interest.

If this scheme succeeds it will be extended to other villages. A provision store programme was started in Kurunkallor village among the women reed workers. Here the women are helped to plan a family budget and buy provisions for a whole month which works out substantially cheaper than their normal practice of buying small quantities every day. This is possible through their own saving scheme and loans from SEWA. This scheme also will be extended if it proves successful.

SEWA also approached the State and Central Social Welfare Boards to extend financial assistance for some income generating programme for unemployed girls and hopes to get them sanctioned for the coming year.

During the year SEWA has become more operationally autonomous. It has a well functioning committee and a programme of action. From next year we shall not report about its official work in our Annual Report.

c. Youth and Children's Programme

In 1985 there were 20 Balavikasana groups in 14 coastal villages with a total membership of 700 children. Each group meets on a weekly basis and children get an opportunity to develop their extracurricular abilities and leadership potential.

In February 1985 a big children's festival—Bala Mela—was conducted in Pulluvila. Over 200 children from the coastal villages came together to enjoy sports competitions, variety entertainment programmes and a picnic.

Summer tuition programmes were organised in five villages. In some areas the tuition programmes are followed-up by supervised study centres held in a common place with electric lighting so that children from non-electrified houses can benefit. The lack of large enough common facilities hinders further expansion of this programme in which many of the educated youth of the village take active initiative.

Four summer camps were held at the PCO in April 1985 in which a total of 135 children in the age group 10 to 15 participated. The themes of study in these camps included: Sea and living resources; Health and Hygiene; Social Analysis and so forth. Besides the regular classes, discussions and extracurricular activities, the children were taken on field visits to expose them to a better understanding of reality.

d. Housing Programmes

The housing scheme funded by NOVIB and Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund and

undertaken by us in collaboration with the Kerala State Housing Board was almost complete at the end of the year. A total of 221 houses out of the planned 225 were completed. This programme has required considerable administrative follow-up on our part and a lot of time had to be spent with the beneficiaries to listen to their problems and sort out their difficulties. An evaluation survey was conducted among the beneficiaries which highlights the importance as well as the problems associated with such a scheme. (see Appendix I for a summary of the survey report.)

Financial Assistance for huts was also provided to 22 families in Valiathura who were affected by the sea erosion. PCO contributed Rs. 5500/- and the remainder was contributed by the People's Organisation and the public in the village.

e. Financial Assistance to Peoples' Organisations

Details of major financial assistance to people's Organisations (mentioned above) are given in Appendix II

II. EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

a. Regular Programmes

Seminars, discussions and trainings were conducted in substantial number during 1985. These include programmes for staff and committee members of fishermen societies, fishermen leaders, mahila samajams and also for the youth in the fishing villages. About 1800 people have participated in the various programmes (See Appendix III for details)

A one month training programme for youth was conducted in the beginning of the year. Only 24 youths who were willing to work with people's organisations were selected to participate. Besides analysis

of Indian reality and problems of the fisheries sector, classes on management and administration of co-operatives were given importance. There were field exposures also.

b. Special Programmes

Some special seminars were organised in collaboration with other organisations. Some groups visited us to learn from our experience. A three day seminar was conducted at the PCO Centre for about 40 women animators of the Fishermen's Community Development Programme (FCDP), Quilon. In March 1985 a group of women animators from the Grameena Vanitha Prastanam, Thiruvalla shared their organisational experience with the women animators of the PCO. We also assisted the Medical Mission Sisters of Mampally to conduct a village health workers training programme in which 15 girls participated. At the invitation of CARD, Nilamboor two of our organisers conducted a training for the women's agricultural workers of the region.

15 students from Xavier Institute of Social Service, Ranchi, visited Trivandrum in January 1985 to study the programmes for our organisation. 23 trainees from Search, Bangalore visited and shared our experience in March 1985.

As part of the learning, many of our staff and members also participated in seminars, training sessions and study groups organised by other agencies in different parts of the country. This we have found to be an effective process of expanding our horizons and a good way to make contact with like-minded people. Details about these are given in Appendix IV.

c. Fish-Bowl Discussion

An important and unusual one day discussion called a 'fish bowl' discussion

was organised in February 1985. The objective was to bring together an interdisciplinary group of experts who would discuss among themselves about the problems and prospects of fisheries development in Kerala. Listening to them were a large group of activists, trade union leaders, social scientists and fishery co-operative managers. Those who participated included: Dr. N. Balakrishnan Nair (Professor of Aquatic Biology); Dr. M. Devaraj (Fishery Biologist and member of Kalavar Commission); Dr. Vincent Panikulangara (High Court Advocate); Mr. T. R. Thankappan Asari (Fishery Planner) and Dr. U. K. Gopalan (Environmentalist) and Dr. C. T. Samuel (Professor of Industrial Fisheries). The discussion was chaired by John Kurien.

This interaction was a new experience for both the members of the panel and the audience. It was an occasion to perceive the various viewpoints on issues like the method of fishery regulation and management, the cause for stagnation of fish production in Kerala and the appropriate forms of technology to be used in our waters. The need for PCO to take the initiative to serve as a common platform for expression and debate on various viewpoints on fishery questions was stressed at the end of the discussion.

d. Resource Assessment Training

Around the time when this fish bowl discussion was held, we had Dr. Hans Jager a biological statistician from Netherlands visiting us. During his brief stay he was able to conduct a few preliminary sessions for the community organisers and other interested persons on the questions of the statistical base required for having a better understanding of the fishery resource questions. His analysis of the available secondary data and his offer to continue to assist us in working out ways and means of going deeper into the fishery resource

questions were very useful. With the active collaboration of some of our fishery biologist friends in India and with the continuing contact with experts from other disciplines we hope to be able to get a wider exposure to the range of issues involved in fishery resource assessment and related questions. This knowledge will equip us to serve the cause of the fishworkers more effectively.

III RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND DOCUMENTATION

The Fisheries Research Cell (FRC) was in the limelight in the early 1980's following the publication of the FAO/UNDP sponsored study of the economics of artisanal and mechanised fishing craft in Kerala State. After this, for a variety of reasons, the most important being the lack of staff, the activities of FRC have been at a low ebb.

In 1985 however there was a slow recovery of the tempo of work and there are indications that it will be sustained. Various organisations and groups who have benefitted from the work of the FRC have also put pressure to see that its activities are restarted in full swing.

During the year a major piece of work was the completion of a review of trends in marine fish production in Kerala. Being written in Malayalam it is hoped that the publication will be of general use for fishermen and the interested public. This booklet was still in press at the end of the year.

Two small booklets—one on the proceedings, conclusion and recommendations of the International Conference of Fishworkers and their supporters held in Rome in 1984 and another on fish resources and environmental problems authored by Dr. U. K. Gopalan were published. Both these publications were in Malayalam and

have been used as good material for extension work among the fishermen and also at the training programmes conducted by us.

The FRC also collaborated with the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies to formulate an alternative approach paper on the Seventh Five Year Plan for Fisheries Development in Kerala State. It is worthwhile noting that a large number of the observations made in this document have been incorporated by the Government in its finalised draft plan.

The study on the structure and dynamics of fishermen cooperatives in Trivandrum District undertaken in 1983 was finalised by the end of the year. It was a study which we expected would provide many insights for our future work. While this expectation has not been completely met, the study has focussed well on the perspectives of fishermen regarding their cooperatives. It indicates that there are still many areas where a big gap exists between fishermen's expectations and the concrete achievements in the field.

With the assistance of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, four important studies pertaining to the present trends and future implications of certain activities in the fish economy of Kerala were undertaken. They are (i) a study of the implications of motorisation of country craft (ii) an examination of the changing pattern of fish vending practices by women vendors and its impact on their economic situation and family life (iii) a study of the employment and working conditions of women workers in the prawn processing factories and (iv) a study of the process of innovation of the trammel net by small fishermen and its impact on their incomes. The field work for the first three studies have progressed and the reports of all the studies will be ready in 1986.

In accordance with the guidelines of the General Body the FRC was also given more physical prominence as a unit of the PCO. One whole wing of the PCO Centre was renovated for relocating the documentation unit, and library and PRC office. We have also availed of professional assistance to set the library in proper order.

On all accounts the Fisheries Research Cell is set to make a major contribution to PCO's work in the future.

IV ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

The last Annual General Body was held on 29th March 1985. On this occasion a new Managing Committee was elected comprising Mr. Aleyamma Vijayan, Mr. Elphege Tajan, Mrs. Sheela Paul, Mr. S. Rymond and Mr. John Kurien. At the first meeting of the Managing Committee Mrs. Aleyamma Vijayan was elected as Co-ordinator; Mrs. Sheela Paul as Secretary and Mr. E. Tajan as Treasurer. During the year, 12 Managing Committee meetings were held and a General Body meeting was held in November 1985 to discuss the question of re-orientation and focus of our activities.

A new advisory Council was also formed in 1985 consisting of the following members: Rev. M. J. Joseph; Dr. Manu Bhasker; Advocate Chirayinkil Shamsudeen; Mr. R. Philip and Fr. A. George.

Three new full members were admitted during the year: Mr. E. Tajan in March 1985 and Mr. T. R. Thankappan Asari and Mr. V. C. Das in November 1985.

The following changes took place among the full time staff:

a. Mr. A. J. Vijayan who was on leave from May 1984 resigned from the post of Community Organiser in January 1985.

He continues his involvement with fishermen using his journalistic talents.

b. Mr. Eugene Culas resigned as a Community Organiser in March 1985 but continued as a legal consultant until September 1985. Thereafter he has relinquished his active association with the routine functioning of PCO and is now practising as a lawyer.

c. Five other Community Organisers—Mr. C. Mohan, Mr. V. Alphonse, Mr. P. J. Joy, Mr. P. J. Varkey and Mr. Baby Sebastian and Librarian Mr. Abraham Pereira relinquished their duties during the year. Mr. K. C. George assisted on a 6 month assignment with the housing scheme undertaken by PCO.

d. Mr. C. O. Kurien, a research associate in the Fisheries Research Cell also resigned from his post for personal reasons. During the year, some new faces also joined us: Mr. P. Robert, Mr. P. Balachandran, Mr. A. Alexander and Mr. P. C. Gomez took charge as Community Organisers. The Fisheries Research Cell which has been dormant for a while has been rejuvenated with Mr. T. R. Thankappan Achari joining as a Consultant.

At the end of the year, Mrs. Aleyamma Vijayan, Mr. E. Tajan and Ms. T. Nirmala were the only 'old faces' who continued as full time Community Organisers. Mrs. Latha Francis, Mr. K. Bhaskaran and Mr. S. Jayakumar continued their able support in running the office.

In order to relieve full time Community Organisers from the burden of routine administration work, which has increased substantially over the years, Mr. V. K. A. Nambiar was appointed as Administrator. With his vast experience and pleasant manners things will certainly run smoothly.

Ms. Nalini Nayak who relinquished her responsibility as Co-ordinator in March

1985 subsequently resigned her job in the Shri Chitra Thirunal Medical Centre in order to devote her full time to work with people's groups. She undertook a six month assignment for the PCO to study the question of women's consciousness and women's participation in social movements.

During the year, the Community Organisers used to meet every week to discuss their work and evaluate their performance. Two evaluations of our work were conducted with the assistance of Fr. Jose Kaleekal and Dr. Duarte Baretto.

The issue of our inability to attract and retain committed persons to work in the realm of development action and mobilisation has stood out as a major lacuna in our organisational strength. A search into the cause for this is essential if we are to continue our close field involvement which is the basis of much of our work.

As a means of involving all full members in the planning and implementation of activities, sub-committees were formed from among them to assist in the development action, training and research programmes. We hope that in this manner more involvement and fresh ideas will result.

V DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The fishery scenario of 1985 and the various facets of our work during the year provide the basis for some guidelines for the direction of our involvements in the coming few years. We shall indicate them below:

a. For the first time the crisis in the fishery sector has a socio-economic and an ecological dimension—both of which leave the fishworkers and their supporters rather baffled about the nature of the correct remedial steps

to be taken. We are of the opinion that on the ecological front, a serious effort needs to be made to create an awareness among the fishermen regarding the limitations of their understanding about limits of the eco-systems. Attempts to achieve this are important so that a new understanding of the need for resource conservation will be seen in a proper perspective. To facilitate this, some research and dissemination of scientific information about fish resources; the impact of the new technologies; and the question regarding alternative approaches must be undertaken. A change is called for in the **content** as well as the **methods** we should adopt to communicate these ideas.

b. The focus on women's work in the fishery sector needs to be sharpened. While we have been organising women in the past, we have not involved deeply in their occupational problems from the perspective of understanding the cause and changing concretely the conditions in which they labour. There were some areas of women's involvement in fishery—e.g. the processing sector—about which we have not much knowledge. In this realm again more study is warranted so that we can follow this up by concrete proposals for some new organisational forms and technological interventions.

c. In our development action and mobilisation work the need to take a more coordinated approach between people's organisations for handling social issues is important. Compartmentalising fishermen's problems, women's issues and youth concerns, while it has helped to give a better understanding of each group's special problems, has not helped when common and co-ordinated action was necessary in some particular fields of concern. With this end in view a desirable direction will be to create more joint