

0418. 16th Progress Report on the SCNZ Programme (Mar 2005)

1. MEMBERSHIP & COVERAGE

1.1. Socio-political Presence

After the artificial show of strength we had been deceived by 6 months back, socio-political Presence has now settled at a more honest 47% (*down another 9% point from 30 September 2004*). The irony is that, with this honest show of strength, projected potential has now risen to 63% (*up by 1%*).

Overall population coverage is now at 28% (*down from an artificial 41%*) of the region's population, but far higher at 39% within functioning village CSUs.

These corrections were inevitable after the severe correction measures reported in the last Progress Report. The real impact of those measures will be seen only after a few more months.

Socio-political Presence Rating in SCNZ supported villages (31 March 2005)

Excellent	100 village CSUs (<i>115 in last report</i>)	67%
Very Good	8 village CSUs (<i>16 in last report</i>)	5%
Good	2 village CSUs (<i>5 in last report</i>)	1%
Not Good	40 village CSUs (<i>14 in last report</i>)	27%

1.2. Membership

The SCNZ programme now covers 111 villages with an active membership of 3,328 Coolie families.

Coverage in SCNZ supported villages (31 March 2005)

	30 September 2004	This Report
Number of village CSUs	142	111
Tax Paid Member families	4,523	3,328
Suspended Members	498	-
Therefore Active Member families	4,025	3,328
Cancelled Member families (<i>i.e. those who did NOT pay Sangha Tax</i>)	1,113	2,683
Women Memberships	1,393 (35%)	1,174 (35%)
Population Coverage in functioning villages	37%	39%

Ethnic cover figures for SC/ST and Upper castes have risen. 47% of the SC/ST population are now in the Coolie Sangha (*up 3% points*) and Upper caste coverage has also risen to 35% (*once again up 3% points*). Middle castes coverage stays at 28%.

These increases have taken place within functioning villages – i.e. not in the Taluk as a whole. It indicates that the better functioning villages, with higher population coverage, have survived the purges reported in the previous Progress Report.

Caste Group Composition in SCNZ supported villages (31 March 2005)

Member Families	% in CSUs	Caste Group	Village Population	Ethnic Cover
1,825	55%	Scheduled Castes/Tribes	3,895 (46%)	47%
473	14%	Middle Castes	1,692 (20%)	28%
1,030	31%	Upper Castes	2,964 (35%)	35%
3,328	100%		8,551 (100%)	39%

1.3. Gram Panchayat 2005 Elections

Gram Panchayat elections were held in February and results were out on 1 March 2005. The village CSUs' efforts to introduce internal discipline were vindicated. Much of the lost discipline and weakened socio-political unity was regained.

Actual results differed in Bagepalli and Gudibanda Taluks. But this did not worry us. Though the village CSUs lost control of individual Gram Panchayats in Gudibanda, their display of unity and determination was as impressive as at Bagepalli.

- Contrary to what happened just under a year back, the Coolie Sangha and their allies were swept to power in Bagepalli Taluk. Not just did they win 17 of the 24 Gram Panchayats, but the Coolie Sangha turned out to be the majority partners in 12 of these 17 GPs – i.e. the majority of newly elected Gram Panchayat Members were CSU Members.
 - In Bagepalli Taluk, the Coolie Sangha and their allies obtained 49% of the vote share. They converted 55% of individual contests into victory and won 198 of the 359 GP seats. They got absolute majority/ full control in 17 of the 24 Gram Panchayats in Bagepalli Taluk
 - Though their adversaries got 51% of the polled votes, their presence was concentrated in just a few belts and pockets. As a result, they were able to win only 161 GP seats. Moreover, flushed with their recent victory of less than a year back, they over-assessed their strength and over-contested. 461 adversary candidates were in the fray for 359 GP seats, splitting their own votes. As a result of miscalculated over-confidence, they managed to get a majority only in 7 of the 24 Gram Panchayats.
- But in Gudibanda Taluk, in spite of a heroic performance by the village CSUs, the situation refused to budge. The Coolie Sangha and their allies managed to win in only 2 of the 7 Gram Panchayats.
 - In Gudibanda Taluk, the Coolie Sangha and their allies obtained only 43% of the popular vote. They converted 39% of their contests into victory and won 45 of the 110 GP seats. This gave them a majority only in just 2 of the 7 Gram Panchayats
 - Their adversaries got a resounding 57% of the total votes polled. They too had a conversion rate of 39%, but won 65 GP seats. They were swept to power in 4 of 7 Gram Panchayats.
 - 1 Gram Panchayat was hung with the Coolie Sangha (plus allies) and their adversaries getting an equal number of GP seats.

For details on these elections and a commentary on how electoral control over local bodies effects village CSUs, please see “Section G : Coolies United Across all Divides” in the 2nd ADATS Effects Monitoring Report at <http://www.adats.com/documents/book3/0324/>

1.4. Stories from the Field

These stories attempt to give a glimpse of what everyday life was like in the villages of Gudibanda and Mittermari during the reporting period. Contrary to any wrong impression we may have conveyed in our previous Progress Report, it was neither defeatist nor despondent. Member Coolie families continued to bank on their unity to struggle against injustice and overcome severe odds.

- In February 2005, at Someshwara village, their adversaries beat up CSU Member Buddana when he refused to take back his nomination to the Milk Collection Society elections. CSU Members filed a complaint against the offenders but the police did not even register a case. They approached the Deputy Superintendent of Police and got a case booked against them. Buddanna contested the election, but lost.
- In Kondireddipalli village, Narasimhappa was allotted a site. But the same site was re-allotted by the Panchayat Secretary to his arch rival. When CSU Members came to know of this, all of them got together and dug the foundation for Narasimhappa without any delay.
- In Chinnapalli village, 2 brothers had mortgaged their 1 acre of irrigated land to a non-CSU person for their mother's medical treatment, 2 years back. The CSU was not functioning at that time. Now after the revival of the CSU, they took up this case and requested the non-CSU person to return the land to the brothers for the same price. But instead, the brothers were beaten up. CSU Members have filed a police complaint against him, but are hopeful of an outside settlement.
- In Solmakalpalli, Maddi Reddy's house was burnt in an accidental fire. He lost most household articles along with 10 sheep. The CSU Meeting immediately provided the family with clothes and utensils, Ragi and rice. They have also applied for relief from a scheme in Taluk Panchayat.

The made representations to the government and demanded basic services. They did not take their year-old defeat with any fatalism. They refused to surrender to their village adversaries and instead took a defiant stand, asserting that government benefits are non-partisan and meant for all.

- In some villages of Gudibanda Taluk, people who were eligible to get ration cards under the "Below Poverty Line" scheme were denied and the cards were being distributed only to our adversary's supporters. CSU Members from Yellodu, Ullodu, Brahmanarahalli, Gavikuntapalli and Ganganpalli Clusters approached the Taluk Office to stop the corruption. The Tahsildar has ordered an enquiry into the incident and agreed to have a fresh look into the eligibility lists.
- Gudibanda government hospital does not have a woman doctor. Women have to either go to Bagepalli or Chickballapur to undergo a check-up. The GCS Meeting decided to bring this to the notice of the District Health Officer. He agreed to look into the matter, but nothing has been done so far.
- Polanyakanhalli village's water sources had dried up and there was an acute shortage of drinking water. Villagers had to walk miles to get even a pot of drinking water. Venkataravanappa, a CSU Representative who was also a GP Member, told them about a scheme wherein the Gram Panchayat could lay pipe lines to villages. Pipes have been laid but water connection from the neighbouring village is yet to commence.
- In Julapalya, CSU Members forced the GP Members to solve their water problem. They now have 8 water cisterns and water piping been arranged.

When all else failed, they resorted to mutual self-help.

- Brahmanarahalli village has a permanent water source in a well which is free of fluoride. People from the entire Cluster and even from Gudibanda Town draw water from this well. During the course of time, the well became dirty with muck and leaves. People contacted

the Block Development Officer to get the well cleaned. But nothing was done. Finally, the whole Cluster got together and did voluntary labour for 2 days to clean the well, built a bund around it, and create a path for people to use.

We clearly observe an internalisation of the concept of feminisation of poverty in the Mahila Meetings. They continued to support single women with a renowned vigour born of the conviction that these were bad times and troubles would be more acute for women and children.

- Shyamala of Ullodu village came back to her mother's house when her husband deserted her 3 months after her marriage, and married another woman. In the meanwhile, Shyamala is already pregnant. The Mahila Meeting helped her get a job as a cook in the government school. Seeing her status and regular income, the husband now wants to start living with Shyamala. But the Mahila Meeting have opposed it and asked him to go back to his second wife.
- Venkataravanappa and Saraswathamma's only child died of typhoid when he was just 4 years old. When Saraswathamma could not conceive again due to a prolapsed uterus, Venkataravanappa deserted her and went away to Bangalore. Saraswathamma went for a check up and the doctor advised her against a surgery as she was very young, and instead prescribed medicines that would cure her. The Vadigiri Mahila Meeting convinced Venkataravanappa to come back to the village and start living with his wife. The CSU got him a job as a milk collector where he earns Rs 400 a month.

We had hoped to see large scale transfer of properties into the names of women folk. We were convinced that this was the only guarantor of security for Coolie women. But that has not happened.

However, the idea of women holding property has caught on, thanks to a persistent rhetoric from ADATS and the Coolie Sangha.

- In Mitemari, Pyari ma got 2 acres of land and a part of the house registered in her name when her husband and his brother decided to separate and partition their ancestral property.
- In Poolkuntlapalli village, Subbamma's husband had deserted her 16 years ago, leaving her with 2 young children. When Subbamma wanted to build a house on the site which was in her husband's name her in-law refused to let her do so. A case was register against them by CSU Members. They are trying to get the site registered in Subbamma's name.
- In Muthyalamma gudi at Gudibanda Town, Laxmidevamma had bought a site which had falsely been sold to another person as well. Without proper documents she could not build a house. The Mahila Meeting approached the Town Panchayat Office to check if the said site had indeed been registered to another party. When they knew the site had not been registered to anyone else, they caught the culprit and got the site papers registered in Laxmidevamma's name.
- In the same Mahila Meeting, Alivelamma's husband had borrowed a lot of money to drink. He threatened to sell the house to repay his debts. The Mahila Meeting immediately got the property transferred in Alivelamma's name.

Largely because they have been shaken out of a complacency after their socio-political defeat, and now wish to assert their rights, Coolie women actively infiltrate mainstream village institutions created by the government.

- In Kanagamakalapalli, Gangaratna borrowed Rs 10,000 from the Stree Shakthi group to rear a crossbred cow. She has repaid the entire loan and now has a calf left over.
- Nagamma too borrowed Rs 5,000 to rear 5 sheep. She was also a Women's Fund beneficiary and still has to repay Rs 3,330 to the WF. However, her loan is not overdue and she still has time. Nagamma now has 20 sheep after repaying the entire amount she borrowed from the Stree Shakthi scheme.

The Mahila Meetings continued to support simple and choice marriages in the villages.

- In Pillagutta village, Yashodha married a young man of her choice. The CSU took them to the Sub Registrar's office and got the union registered.
- *Balakendra* Teacher Parvathi in Hanumathayanapalli village got married according to her wishes.
- In Kuntlapalli village, Earamma did not want her son Venkatravana to have a big wedding. He too agreed to a simple marriage in the local temple.
- Similarly 5 other weddings took place (Ramanjinappa from Singanpalli, Srinivas from Ullodu, Chickathamnahalli *Balakendra* Teacher Komala, Bayamma from Jambigemarahalli, and Laxminarasamma from Yellodu).

But the village CSUs did not spare those who deliberately flouted their decisions.

- In Vardiagaripalli, Anjinamma who had borrowed from the CCF refused to pay back her loan. CSU Members sat in front of her house, threatened to confiscate her belongings, and forced her to repay. Furthermore, they did not allow her to declare her income, pay Sangha Tax and renew membership this year. As a result, Anjinamma suddenly finds herself all alone...

2. CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

2.1. *Balakendra* Teachers

Following the established practice, *Balakendra* Teacher training sessions were held on the 1st weekend of every month. Training methodology continued to be activity based, with very little theory. They included the making of teaching aids, folk songs, human values, experiments, board games, debates, preparing model question papers, math, social and science with project works, songs and skits. Art, craft and active sports were also introduced. Charts, models, maps, laboratory equipment, and materials for project work were bought to enhance the effectiveness of Teacher training sessions.

Conversational English was introduced during this reporting period. Since it is not a language that was emphasized during their own school days, *Balakendra* Teachers found pronunciation and sentence making very hard. It was all the more difficult since they did not know the meaning of most words. All the *Balakendra* Teachers were given English-Kannada pocket dictionaries.

Balakendra Teachers are not a batch of young Coolies who started 6-8 years back and continue to this day. 3-4 years back, all male *Balakendra* Teachers were replaced with women. Today, most of them are young girls in the 19-24 year age-group. Some get married and have to be replaced. This means periodic re-training of new recruits, and starting all over again.

Frequent changes effects teaching standards in the *Balakendras*. But not being a single cohort has a far more negative effect. It negates their potential to act as a unified cadre of young women who can actively bring about social change in Taluks.

This is a gender specific (sex and age based) problem that we are forced to live with. It did not happen, for example, with erstwhile (male) Village Level Workers, or with the (older, female) Village Health Workers – as a collective lot, they are a serious force to contend with in the power play of village life.

2.2. Indoor and outdoor Sports material and steel containers

Balakendra Teachers were asked to provide a list of worn out and broken sports materials that needed to be replaced. To increase children's thinking capacity and memory power, they suggested a whole lot of indoor board games. Along with cricket sets, volleyballs and footballs, Snakes & Ladders, Ludo, Chinese checkers, Chess, Brain Drain, Jig Jaw puzzles, Ring

toss, and Young Architect were supplied. Steel containers to safe-keep these items were also supplied to *Balakendras* that did not have any.

2.3. Sports and Extra Curricular Activities

Conducting events like children's festival has encouraged children to participate at inter-school competitions at the Taluk, District and State levels. Many won prizes, and the rest were happy to just take part.

72 boys and 53 girls took part in various team games and events organised by their schools at the Taluk level. But only 24 boys and 20 girls went on to play at the District level. None participated in competitive exams and intellectual activities like quiz and debate.

2.4. Children's Festival

Preparations for the Children's Festival began during school holidays in October 2004. Inter-Cluster and inter-Area sports and cultural activities are held at that time. Children continued to excel in local sports like Kabbadi and Kho-kho. The change that has taken place over the years, though, is that we see a lot more girls participating in 100 and 200 metre dashes, long jump, and traditional "boys" events.

Team spirit is an important factor in these games. This year, we encouraged children from different villages to team together instead of sticking to friends from their own villages. These intra-village teams camped together at our organic farm for 2 days to practice drill and dance.

No single village was given any individual event to perform for lack of time and increased numbers. Children who won at the inter-Area played at the final inter-Taluk between Gudibanda and Mittemari on 14 November 2004.

The Children's Festival itself was held at Yellodu village. Parents, CSU Representatives and village functionaries helped the Case Workers and *Balakendra* Teachers to clear the ground, and tie colourful buntings that village youth had prepared the previous evening. The day started with children marching in their colourful clothes and a short opening speech by the President of the Bagepalli Coolie Sangha. Our Teacher Trainers helped the *Balakendra* Teachers to compile and manage cultural events. Professional Physical Education Teachers conducted the sports events.

Every team was mixed – they included girls as well as boys. Just as last year, mid-day lunch was prepared in their respective villages and brought to venue by *Balakendra* Teachers who were given food expenses and bus fares. The day's lunch was varied and assorted. ADATS Staff had a taste of diverse dishes as there was enough and more to spare. Children were also seen tasting each others' lunches, sharing and exchanging food.

2.5. Coaching Classes

2.5.1. WEEKEND COACHING

During the November 2004 Teacher Training, some *Balakendra* Teachers suggested that we start coaching classes during weekends to make up the syllabus that had not been covered at school. especially in subjects like English, science and math.

We accepted their recommendation, and started Weekend Coaching from the 3rd week of November. 5 Temporary Teachers were appointed to work every Saturday and Sunday. 203 of the 265 children who regularly attended 10th Std in 2004-05 came for these weekend classes.

The Temporary Teachers gave some valuable suggestions to improve scores and pass percentage of 10th Std. children:

- Start weekend coaching classes as early as September. (*Will do so from next year*)
- Introduce basic English, Math and Science concepts at a summer camp. (*This has, in the meanwhile, been implemented*)
- Teacher Trainers prepare a Question Bank of objective questions for all subjects and give a copy to each 10th Std student. (*Done!*)
- Prepare a lesson plan for *Balakendra* Teachers. (*Done!*)
- *Balakendra* Teachers to conduct tests from the Question Bank every month, correct the answer sheets and report to their Case Workers.
They also have to take note of children who are weak in particular subjects and report during the monthly Teacher Training sessions.

2.5.2. IN-HOUSE COACHING

The shortened 20 day long in-house Coaching Classes were held from 23 February to 14 March 2005. 5 more Temporary Teachers were appointed to join the earlier 5, and the 10 of them together did a wonderful job.

2 things made the job of Temporary Teachers less demanding. The first was, of course, weekend coaching. The second was accumulated experience they had gained over the years. They prepared separate Question Bank booklets containing objective questions for each subject and administered these in a fairly systematic manner. Every evening, a test was held on a selected subject, and a mock preparatory exam was held at the end of the coaching classes.

For the very first time, it was not all cramming. There was time for extra curricular activities like essay writing, quiz competitions, cultural activities, karate and sports. These were activities based rather than just classroom exercises. They include mapping, conducting experiments and learning how to draw diagrams. These carry almost 30 marks in science, socials and math exams.

Children were also given career guidance during this time. Our IT Instructors, the ADATS IT Professional, and our Teacher Trainers volunteered to help ease the workload of the Temporary Teachers’.

This time around, we did not take permission from any school to send their children to the coaching classes. The coaching classes began only after the school Preparatory Exam got over. This “late start” was possible because of the weekend classes. Most government school teachers did not create problems, but we did encounter 2 strange cases.

- In Varlakonda and Somenahalli High Schools, the headmasters refused to give entrance tickets to our children because they attended our coaching class. Though the children were made to wait till the last minute, they were finally given hall tickets when the entire CSU gathered in front of the school on the morning of the exams.
- In Mitemari High School, the headmaster threatened parents that if they sent their children to our coaching classes instead of attending the one hour extra classes that the school teachers themselves conducted after school hours, they would be denied hall tickets. This issue was discussed in the BCS Meeting and a protest was planned. Meanwhile, the headmaster came to know of the impending trouble and succumbed.

Some conscientious government teachers who actually lived in the villages where they taught conducted night classes after regular school hours. We encouraged children from these villages to stay at home and go to them for coaching.

Our fond (but slightly unrealistic) hope is that all government school teachers will start emulating them. Then we can gradually phase out our coaching classes which really do sap so

much of organisational energy and resources. It is no exaggeration to say that the entire ADATS Staff are on pins and needles when 200 boys and girls are in residence.

2.6. Children's Issues

Motivated by the plan and design of the VASS Children's Programme being implemented in 3 other Taluks, the SCNZ Case Workers, *Balakendra* Teachers and Mahila Meetings also adopted the "child rights approach". They too went about ensuring that government services reached the children. The below cases are a good indicator of an emerging seriousness.

- In some of schools in Gudibanda Taluk, the headmistress/master started forming School Betterment committees without the knowledge of the CSU Members. When they came to know of this, they immediately informed the BEO and threatened to withdraw their children from these schools. Now, both the CSU Members and non-CSU persons are in the Betterment Committee.
- Kanagamakalapalli village school has 2 cooks. One of the cooks regularly siphoned off food grains meant for children. When the Mahila Meeting came to know of the incident, they wanted the cook to be replaced. But she has confessed her mistakes and agreed to correct herself. The Mahila Meeting has now taken charge of safeguarding the food stock.
- Ullodu village school did not have a separate cooking area. Food was being cooked in the open and children started falling ill due to bad hygiene. CSU Members protested in front of the BEO's office. After repeated requests, Rs 30,000 has been sanctioned to build a kitchen.
- A temporary kitchen was arranged by the Mahila Meeting of Hanumatharayanapalli village next to the school as the mid-day meal was being cooked in the class room.
- In the same village, there was only 1 teacher for the entire school consisting of 5 divisions. CSU Members complained to the Block Education Officer (BEO) and requested him to appoint another teacher. They now have 2 teachers in the school – still too few.
- 4 months back, Koppukatenahalli village school was sanctioned Rs 50,000 by the Taluk Panchayat to build a compound wall. Narashima Reddy, the local Ryot leader, demolished it saying that it encroached on his land. CSU Members and the headmaster complained against him. The police forced Narasimha Reddy to rebuild the damaged wall.
- Chinnapalli village school did not have a playground for many years. Children made use of a small yard in front of the school to play. Many requests from the school authorities and the CSU Members fell on deaf ears. Finally, the CSU asked the forest department if their children could use some cleared land to play. They readily agreed.

2.7. Balakendra construction

8 new *Balakendra* buildings were completed by 31 March 2005 – 3 in Gudibanda Taluk (*Poovalamakalapalli, Nilugumba and Bulsandra villages*) and 5 in Mittemari Hobli (*Masanapalli, Pirlagutta, Giripalli, Mittemari-B and Malligurki villages*).

2.8. Skill Training & Job Placement

9 youth from the SCNZ villages were trained and placed in various garment factories in and around Bangalore.

2.9. Computer Training

4 more batches of IT Training were held during this reporting period. A total of 137 Coolie youth attended and 134 (*82 boys and 52 girls*) completed the course. The sex ratio has not been good.

This takes the total number of Coolie youth trained through 17 IT Camps over the past 2 years to 525 – 260 boys and 265 girls.

Resume of Computer Training Camps held as on 31 March 2005

Batch	Start Date	End Date	Taluk/Area	Attended	Course Completed		Total Trained	
					Boys	Girls		
1 st	01-Mar-03	30-May-03	Gudibanda	38	12	24	36	95%
2 nd	5-Jun-03	18-Jul-03	Chintamani	33	16	16	32	97%
3 rd	21-Jun-03	20-Aug-03	Bagepalli	37	16	20	36	97%
4 th	27-Aug-03	28-Sep-03	Gudibanda & Mittermari	39	13	18	31	79%
5 th	06-Oct-03	06-Nov-03	Chintamani	35	11	17	28	80%
6 th	12-Nov-03	11-Dec-03	Siddalaghatta	38	20	18	38	100%
7 th	01-Jan-04	06-Feb-04	Bagepalli	22	11	11	22	100%
8 th	22-Feb-04	20-Mar-04	All Taluks	23	3	20	23	100%
9 th	06-Apr-04	05-May-04	All Taluks	39	19	20	39	100%
10 th	25-May-04	12-Jun-04	All Taluks	34	15	1	16	47%
11 th	23-Jun-04	22-Jul-04	All Taluks	22	9	13	22	100%
12 th	16-Aug-04	26-Aug-04	Refresher	42	15	22	37	88%
13 th	04-Sep-04	02-Oct-04	All Taluks	32	18	13	31	100%
14 th	10-Oct-04	10-Nov-04	All Taluks	36	17	16	33	92%
15 th	20-Nov-04	20-Dec-04	All Taluks	23	15	8	23	100%
16 th	05-Jan-05	05-Feb-05	All Taluks	23	16	7	23	100%
17 th	28-Feb-05	30-Mar-05	All Taluks (except Chintamani)	55	34	21	55	100%
TOTAL				571	260	265	525	92%

4. HEALTH

4.1. Annual Health Check-up

By November 2004, annual health check-up were completed in both, Mittermari hobli and Gudibanda Taluk. All the children were de-wormed and vitamins/iron supplements were given to those who required. Those who needed further treatment were brought by their *Balakendra* Teachers, the very next day, to the respective Taluk headquarters.

Referred cases were taken to the government hospitals and most could be treated locally, except for dental cases. Children suffering from epilepsy and severe ear infections were sent to Bangalore. They are presently on medication.

3.2. Health Camps

3.2.1. CERVICAL CANCER DETECTION

A Cervical Cancer Detection Camp was held in Bagepalli during this period. 200 Coolie women attended the camp. 80 women with excess white/red discharges were treated along with their partners. 2 were detected with prolapsed uterus and treated accordingly. No cancer cases were detected.

3.3.2. LAPAROSCOPY

Family planning surgery camps continued with the same conviction every month. 32 more Coolie mothers from Gudibanda and Mittemari have undergone laparoscopy. Though Gudibanda still has not accepted the one-two child policy, this has firmly set in at Bagepalli. Of the 32 who underwent surgery in these 6 months, only 4 from Bagepalli villages got operated after a single child, while 20 of them after 2 children, 4 after 5 children and 1 after 6 children!

3.3.3. EYE CAMPS

2 eye camps were held – one at Bagepalli and the other at Gudibanda – for 226 patients. 141 of them were given spectacles and 11 were operated upon for cataract.

3.4. Vokkaku Sanchi Duddu

2 training sessions were held during January and February 2005 for all the VHWs and a woman CSU Representative from each village. 4 brand new villages were taken up this year in Gudibanda and VHWs and Representatives from these villages also joined in. They were given a day's training on how to utilise/manage their VSD funds without male interference. Rs 2,000 was given out as grant for each new village. Mahila Meetings who had increased their membership were given additional VSD capital. Mahila Meetings who had genuinely "lost" some of their VSD for reasons like supporting the termination of an unwanted pregnancy, or death of a Member, etc. were reimbursed their loss. In this manner, a total of Rs 42,000 was given out during this reporting period.

4. SANGHA FUNDS

4.1. Sangha Tax

December 2004 was a very important moment in the history of the village CSUs in Gudibanda and Mittemari. It was a time when they had to demonstrate whether they would stay true to the internal rectification measures they had undertaken 7 months earlier, and really weed out those who were detrimental to unity and discipline.

Once again, ADATS refused to interfere in what was essentially a village level exercise. Village CSUs stuck to their guns and "cleansed" their membership by disallowing 31 villages and 1,139 Coolie families from participating in the membership renewal process.

- There was a drop of 25% in the number of families who declared their income for the year 2004.
- Similarly a drop of 31 village CSUs.
- Average Income Declared dropped by 3% to Rs 4,441.

Income Declared in the SCNZ villages (31 March 2005)

Income for Year	Coolie Families	+/-	CSUs	Income Declared	+/-	Average Income	+/-
1994	152		9	745,853		4,907	
1995	478	+214%	25	1,965,655	+164%	4,112	-16%
1996	581	+22%	25	2,326,375	+18%	4,004	-3%
1997	687	+18%	30	2,115,155	-9%	3,079	-23%
1998	1,352	+97%	55	4,485,505	+112%	3,318	+8%
1999	1,754	+30%	68	4,348,650	-3%	2,479	-25%
2000	1,711	-2%	68	5,556,782	+28%	3,248	+31%
2001	1,808	+6%	72	11,309,778	+104%	6,255	+93%
2002	3,588	+98%	131	15,181,921	+34%	4,231	-32%
2003	4,523	+26%	142	20,792,061	+37%	4,597	+9%
2004	3,384	-25%	111	15,027,480	-28	4,441	-3%

- 3,330 Coolie families paid up Sangha Tax and obtained membership in their respective village CSUs.
- Compliance Rate (*No. Paid Up ÷ No. Declared*) remains high at 98.4% (*down from 100% last year*).
- Average Sangha Tax paid by each Coolie family remains the same as last year at Rs 210.

Sangha Tax Paid in Gudibanda & Mittermari (31 March 2005)

Tax for the Year	Member Families	+/-	CSUs	Sangha Tax Paid	+/-	Average Tax Paid	+/-	Percent Paid
1995	135		9	33,846		250		5.11%
1996	461	+241%	25	91,954	+172%	199	-20%	4.85%
1997	499	+8%	25	105,054	+14%	210	+6%	5.26%
1998	544	+9%	26	85,378	-19%	156	-25%	5.10%
1999	1,261	+132%	53	184,806	+116%	146	-7%	4.42%
2000	1,661	+32%	66	191,147	+3%	115	-21%	4.64%
2001	1,584	-5%	65	266,352	+39%	168	+46%	5.18%
2002	1,558	+2%	67	391,986	+47%	251	+50%	4.02%
2003	3,455	+122%	129	720,085	+84%	208	-17%	4.93%
2004	4,523	+31%	142	953,674	+32%	210	+1%	4.59%
2005	3,330	-26%	111	701,542	-26%	210	-	4.74%

- As of today, 148 (99%) village CSUs and 5,617 (93%) Member Coolie families (in the ADATS/SCNZ area) have participated in the Sangha Tax process.
- There is nothing token or perfunctory about the annual declaration of income, paying of Sangha Tax and renewing of membership. More than 76% of the village CSUs and 81% of Coolie families rank in the Excellent and Very Good categories. There is a further improvement in Performance with 65 villages and 2,782 qualifying as Excellent (*up from 61 and 2,727 respectively, last year*).

Sangha Tax Performance in SCNZ supported villages (31 March 2004)

Excellent	65 village CSUs (62 last year)	44%	2,782 families (2,727 last year)	50%
Very Good	48 village CSUs (7 last year)	32%	1,733 families (232 last year)	31%
Good	15 village CSUs (60 last year)	10%	507 families (1,883 last year)	9%
Not Good	22 village CSUs (18 last year)	15%	595 families (374 last year)	11%

4.2. Sangha Funds

Sangha Funds grew in this 6 month reporting period by a further 17% to Rs 10.13 million. The entire fresh collections, along with a substantial part of what was already in village SB Accounts, was placed in Fixed Deposits in the names of respective village CSUs to build the decentralised village level corpus fund for posterity.

Sangha Funds in SCNZ supported villages (31 March 2005)

	30 September 2004			This Report		
Taluk Main Savings Bank Account	3,154	-		16,805	-	
Taluk Fixed Deposits	450,000	5%		450,000	4%	
Village Savings Bank Accounts	1,733,821	20%		1,005,853	10%	
Village Fixed Deposits	6,464,500	75%	8,651,475	8,652,600	86%	10,125,258

5. COOLIE CREDIT FUNDS

There was no change at all in the utilisation figures since not a single Rupee of CCF loans were given during this 6 month reporting period.

In spite of that, Rs 880,659 of Overdue Loans were repaid, another Rs 491,127 worth of Good Loans have also been repaid, and bank balances have correspondingly increased by Rs 1,371,786.

Status of the CCFs in SCNZ supported villages (31 March 2005)

Total CCF Capital		11,408,198	100%
Total of Good Loans		325,750	3%
Total of Overdue		1,976,485	17%
<i>1 to 6 Months Late</i>	16,225	1%	
<i>7 to 12 Months Late</i>	24,905	1%	
<i>Over 1 Year Late</i>	1,935,352	98%	
Bad Debts		600	-
Bank Balances		9,105,167	80%

These are figures that our bankers, for example, are quite unable to comprehend. They just can't understand how, when at a time we were raving and ranting about the Overdue problem and refusing to give out a single Rupee as CCF loan, errant borrowers actually tucked their tails between their legs and repaid millions! After a crop failure to boot!

The only way to explain this unbelievable phenomenon is, of course, to look deep into practices of grassroots ownership and control, social check and control, *et al.* We have no doubt whatsoever that the village CCFs will be back on their feet by mid 2005.

Overall performance has climbed slightly to 31% with 13 more village CCFs climbing into the ranks of Very Good and Excellent. The computer predicts a further improvement of 4 points to 35%. Since the CCFs are still nascent in many villages of Gudibanda Taluk, performance is not likely to go much higher than what the computer has predicted.

CCF Performance in SCNZ supported villages (31 March 2005)

Excellent	10 Village CCFs (<i>11 in last report</i>)	7%
Very Good	34 Village CCFs (<i>20 in last report</i>)	8%
Good	48 Village CCFs (<i>42 in last report</i>)	27%
Not Good	51 Village CCFs (<i>68 in last report</i>)	58%

But we have no doubt whatsoever that Member Coolie families are on the path to make the impossible happen!