

17th Progress Report on the SCNZ Programme (July 2006)

1. MEMBERSHIP & COVERAGE

1.1. Membership

In this last year of support for the Gudibanda-Mitemari Community Sponsorship programme, there has been quite an increase in the number of village CSUs as well as family membership. This has not been an artificial growth due to the taking on of new villages (the number of new villages in the Coolie Sangha Formation phase continues at 11), but because of the return of dropped out village CSUs and Cancelled Members.

As a result, population coverage in the functioning village CSUs has risen substantially from 39% 16 months back, to a present 46%.

Coverage in SCNZ supported villages (31 July 2006)

	31 March 2005	This Report
Number of village CSUs	111	128
Tax Paid Member families	3,328	4,270
Cancelled Member families (i.e. those who did NOT pay Sangha Tax)	2,683	2,579
Women Memberships	1,174 (35%)	1,506 (35%)
Population Coverage in functioning villages	39%	46%

The caste composition of the membership remains the same. So it is not as if only a particular caste group has returned to the folds.

Caste Group Composition in SCNZ supported villages (31 July 2006)

Member Families	% in CSUs	Caste Group	Village Population	Ethnic Cover
2,201	52%	Scheduled Castes/Tribes	4,320 (47%)	51%
658	15%	Middle Castes	1,703 (19%)	39%
1,411	33%	Upper Castes	3,171 (34%)	44%
4,270	100%		9,194 (100%)	46%

1.2. Socio-political Presence

We have, in an earlier Progress Report, explained why we have to be very careful about sudden surges in annual membership. This time, however, the situation should not cause alarm. Performance rating shows that the number of "Excellent" villages has risen from 100 to 110 and those in the "Very Good" category from 8 to 14. There is a corresponding fall in the "Not Good" from 40 to 32 which needs to be understood properly.

While 16 villages have risen from a poor rating to a better one, the actual improvement of their own village performance accounts for only 8. This means that 8 very good villages, which had dropped out, for whatever reasons 1½ to 2 years back, have now returned.

This bodes good for the fast becoming independent SCNZ Taluks/Areas which, from April 2007, will join the mainstream village CSUs and thenceforth be referred to as "the erstwhile

SCNZ villages”. Further on in this Progress Report, we will discern other indicators that portend well for the 10 year ADATS/SCNZ effort in building the Coolie Sangha.

Socio-political Presence Rating in SCNZ supported villages (31 July 2006)

Excellent	110 village CSUs (100 in last report)	70%
Very Good	14 village CSUs (8 in last report)	9%
Good	2 village CSUs (2 in last report)	1%
Not Good	32 village CSUs (40 in last report)	20%

1.3. Stories from the Field

Land Issues.

- In Ganganapalli village, 20 Sangha members had applied for *saguvali chiti* for survey No. 47. 15 of them got the order from the government, while another 5 were denied. Refusing of this order could be for 3 reasons: 1. if the applicant has more than 5 acres of land, 2. if the applicant belongs to upper caste or 3. if someone else has applied to the same piece of land. All these 5 members belong to the 3rd category. This issue came up in the Cluster meeting where they decided to approach the *Tahsildar*. Yet nothing realized. Reason: the present MLA is the Land Committee President and he wants the land order for his supporters. Cluster members rallied for a re-survey. The *Tahsildar* has agreed to survey lands after a discussion in the Land Committee Meeting.
- 10 men and 3 women got *Saguvali Chitis* for Darkasht lands after much running around to the Government offices.
- In Mallepalli village, two of our Sangha members owning 3 acres of land between them were in dispute. Without approaching the CSU meeting, they gave a complaint against one another in the police station. When the CSU meeting came to know of this issue, they prompted the members to take back the complaint and to apply for a resurvey. The survey was done; their lands divided accordingly, and proper land documents and title deeds were given.
- In another land related issue, 2 years ago, a sale agreement for 2 acres of land was made between a Sangha and a non-Sangha member for Rs 30,000 in Gundlapalli village. On a Bond paper, the seller committed himself that the land now belonged to the Coolie Sangha member and that he could register it whenever he wanted it. After 2 yrs of DLDP works on the land and subsequent increase in the land value, the seller now has refused to register the land. He is even willing to go the court. The Sangha and the cluster members have reassured the member that he can win the case as he has a valid contract which can be held good by the court. A case has been registered.
- In Patrolapalli village 009 Aswathamma’s land was acquired by a non-CSU member Venkateshappa and she was not allowed to till her land. With the help of CSU and Mahila Meeting, she cultivated her land.
- In the same village, 004 Venkatarayappa’s site was acquired by his elder brother dishonestly. Venkatarayappa booked a case against his brother. When the CSU came to know of this, they advised him to take back the case. They settled the case amicably between them and Venkatarayappa has now registered the site in his own name
- In Malligurki village, there is no proper pathway to reach the Balakendra building. The person who owns land on the way to the building is not a Sangha member and he was not allowing children go walk though his land. All the CSU members talked to him and asked to him politely to let the children pass through. Though he did not agree in the beginning, he consented later.

Issues taken up for Corruption-free State Resources

- Silt hauling works in Lakkepalli village tank worth Rs 2 lakhs was sanctioned. These works have to be decided in a committee with all the village people present. But the current MLA's supporters started the works on the tank without consulting anyone. When the villagers came to know of this, they approached the CSU members for their help. Everyone got together and opposed the decision. They wanted a proper committee meeting to be held in the village and the works to be allotted to all without being impartial. The Sangha Members have barricaded the whole tank until everyone is satisfied.
- In the newly formed dairy co-operative in Machapalli village, the dairy secretary used to cheat women in their milk bill. When they insisted that he pay them properly, he abused them. Angered by this, the women from the village and the Mahila Meeting beat him up. They also wanted either the secretary to be changed or the dairy to be stopped altogether. There was a unanimous decision from the cluster members and others of the concerned villages to close the dairy and reopen another one in Kondireddipalli village. The outcome of this action was, 12 of our coolie women availed of Rs 12,000 loan for cows from the Stree Shakti group. The dairy is running successfully.
- In Marappagaripalli village Milk dairy all the share holders were non-CSU members. CSU members were neither allowed to become members nor to sell their milk to the dairy. The CSU members complained to Dairy Supervisor in Kolar. He immediately took action and allowed the CSU members to become share holders. Enraged by this, they beat up one of our Sangha members. A complaint was lodged in the in Chelur Police station. Case is still going on.
- Jambigemarahalli village was sanctioned a cement road worth Rs 50 K. Some opposition GP members wanted to appropriate the funds by making a mud road. CSU members protested until the JE came and showed the estimate copy of the works. It showed that not only a cement road, but a drain was also allotted. CSU members threatened the JE if he released any money for the shoddy work done. Later when the Executive Officer came to know of the untoward incident, he threatened the JE with dire consequences. He thanked the Coolie Sangha members for brining the episode to the fore.
- In Pillagutta village, CSU members came to know of the sanction of water pipeline and a cistern to the Harijan colony in the village. But they realized that the connection was being given to the main village. After a lot of pressure from the CSU members, they were able to get water cistern and water pipeline from the ZP to the colony.
- In Vadigiri cluster drainage and pitching works of Rs 45,000 had been sanctioned and the works had been completed by the villagers. But the Gram Panchayat Secretary had drawn the bills for these works without the knowledge of the villagers and also did not visit these villages for almost a month. People knew something was amiss and approached the BDO office to see the records of payment. They came to know of the embezzlement and complained against the Secretary to the Executive Officer. The Executive Officer suspended the Secretary and refunded that amount to the people.
- During this reporting period, 6 Coolie Sangha Members got free electricity connections.

Issues regarding properties in Coolie women's names

Although Coolie Sangha are determined to transfer properties in their women's names, they could not do so with their ancestral property. But with a new government policy, men are compelled to transfer their newly acquired properties like sites and houses to their wives to avail of free electricity connection or even a ration card! The policy also states that only women can apply for either government sites or houses.

During this reporting period, individual and group houses were sanctioned in some villages in Gudibanda and Mitemari. To avail of this benefit, some men registered their sites to their wives:

- 266 011 Pedda Narasappa to Laxmidevamma
- 266 010 Narayanaswamy to Ademma
- 266 012 Nanjappa to Gangamma
- 266 015 Venkateshappa to Lalithamma
- 266 016 Laxminarasappa to Ramalaxmamma
- 266 017 Naraynaswamy to Ramalaxmamma
- 272 001 Nagaraj to Kalavathamma
- 272 014 Varadaraj to Sahnthamma
- 272 023 Venkatanna to Gangarathnamma
- 273 001 Chikka Narayanappa to Gangulamma
- 278 009 Adeppa to Thippakka
- 278 064 Gangappa to Rathnamma
- 278 022 Narasimhaiah to Prabhavathi
- 279 020 Narasimhappa to Sarojamma
- 291 009 Ramanjineya to Saraswthamma
- 202 001 Chinna Thimmappa to Rathnamma
- 202 051 Venkataravanappa to Laxmi
- 810 022 Venkataravanappa registered his 30 x 40 house site in his wife's name.

In other cases, 2 from the same village, Mahila Meetings made sure that the effected women got their rightful share in the family property and in others, people voluntarily gave their properties to their daughters and daughters-in-law.

- 007 Aswatha Reddy of Yerrapalli village deserted his wife Padmavathi and their 2 children for another woman. When Padmavathi reported in the Mahila Meeting that she was unable to manage the house and children, they contributed towards her house expenses. Meanwhile, they approached Aswatha Reddy and asked him to give a share in his property. When he refused, they put a case against him. In the court, it was decreed that Padmavathi be given all his 3 acres of land and after her, the property would go to her daughter.
- Manjulamma, who was married to a man from the same village, was widowed 8 months ago. She and her daughter returned to her maternal home. Soon her brother started ill treating her. With the support of the Mahila Meeting, Manjulamma got 2 of the 6 acres of her father's property, registered to her name.
- In another case, in a newly formed Sangha in Gudibanda town, the mother-in-law voluntarily registered 3 acres of her land to her daughter-in-law Sumithra instead of her drunkard son.
- In a similar case, in Chinnapalli village, Asha's father-in-law registered their house in her name.
- In Somalapura village, Venkeshappa registered 2 acres of his land in his wife Rangamma's name
- In Vardaigaripalli village Narayanappa registered 3 acres of land in his wife Aswathamma's name.
- In Kanagamakalapalli village Thatappa registered his 2 acres of land in his wife's name.
- In Vanaganapalli village Pedda Kondappa registered his 1.5 acres of land in his wife's name and in the same village, Narayanaswamy registered his 2 acres of land in his wife's name.

Single Women in Business

Mahila Meetings have been making conscious effort to make sure that single women are treated with respect and dignity that they deserve. Some single women were encouraged to borrow from the CCF to start small businesses, while others, who invested their own was given moral support. Those who borrowed from the CCF during this reporting period took as crop loans, but utilized for their petty businesses and as such, though they have repaid all their loans, most of them could not repay on time. Though these are small businesses, these women are not dependent on anyone and are living a life of pride. They have proved that a woman can live without a man and have their own identity and self respect.

- In Nilugumba village, Mangamma started flower business 11 months back. She borrowed Rs 2,000 from the CCF. She earns Rs 100 a day and has repaid the loan in time.
- Venkataravana of Gundlapalli village has a seasonal Fruits/flower business. She started her business 6 months back, investing Rs 3,000 herself. She earns Rs 75 a day
- Narasamma strings flowers and sells them at the town bus stand. She started this a year ago by investing Rs 1,000 on her own and borrowing another Rs 2,000 from the CCF. She earns Rs 100 a day. She has repaid her loan completely.
- Gangarathamma from Pasupallodu village started Vegetable business with Rs 2,000 from CCF. She earns Rs 100 a day and has repaid her loan completely.
- Gangarathamma from Dapparathi village has a Petty shop. She sells all the small necessities of her village from beedies, candies to rice and Ragi in small quantities. She too borrowed Rs 2,000 from the CCF and has repaid everything.
- Laxamma & Chikkathimakka of Gavikuntapalli village together deals in colourful bangles. While Laxamma invested her own capital of 2.5K, Chikkathimakka borrowed Rs 2,000 from the CCF. They both together earn about Rs 175-200 a day.
- Munilaxamma of the same village started vegetable business with Rs 2,000 from the CCF.
- During this reporting period, another 35 single women reported of being engaged in economic activities. 6 run seasonal fruit businesses, 6 have vegetable businesses, 2 have small poultry business, 7 have CB cows which yield 8 to 12 litres of milk a day; 3 rear 8 to 12 sheep each; 9 are doing flower business and another 3 have set up petty shops in the weekly market.

Domestic Violence

Without the knowledge of the Mahila Meetings, many cases of domestic violence are still going on. Many are temporarily solved for a few days in their houses itself. Only the serious cases are exposed. Because of constant pressure from Mahila Meetings, men are scared to abuse their wives. But there will always be small disturbances. In Kanagamakalapalli village alone, 3 cases of domestic violence were reported and solved during the year.

- 2 cases of suspected adultery by the wives – Rangamma and Manjulamma. Both their husbands suspected that they were having extra-marital affairs and used to beat them up every night. The VHW and Women's Committee member noticed that these women had been beaten up. They warned both the husbands and told them not to abuse their wives again.
- Another is a classical case of a drunkard husband beating his wife. Mahila Meeting separated the couple, and told Thimmakkka not to allow her husband inside the house and also warned him not to disturb her until that time he can behave himself.
- In Polanayakanapalli village Narsamma, married with 2 children was deserted by her husband for a simple reason that she had a prolapsed uterus. When the Mahila trainer noticed this, she advised her to attend the cancer screening camp at the ADATS campus. She was referred to be operated upon. After the surgery, she started to lead a normal and

healthy life. Noticing this, her husband came back after 6 years. She accepted him. He on the other hand started abusing and beating her. She complained this in Mahila Meeting. Mahila Meeting has warned him not to come back to the village ever again.

2. CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

2.1. The Numbers

5,276 children are supported to attend government schools in their villages – a rise of 172 children when compared to the previous academic year.

- The percentage of school-age children in school has increased from 81% in the last Progress Report to an astounding 96% of the 5-16 year old population.
- The number of children in Primary and Middle School have dropped by 4% and 3% respectively, while the High School numbers have increased by 4%.
This shows that we are not “playing the numbers game” and are actually referring to the same cohort of children.
- Only a very small number of children have joined the programme – those who were out-of-school. Demographic growth has almost completely been stemmed.
This most certainly has to be attributed to a feeling of security that the programme has been offered to parents – i.e. that they need not produce too many children; even if they have just 1 or 2 children, they will be well cared for.
- Girls continue to constitute 47% of these children, but their proportion drops in Degree and Diploma classes.

Gender Analysis of Children in School in SCNZ supported villages (31 July 2006)

	Children	Boys	Girls	SC/ST	Middle	Upper	
Primary School (1 to 5)	2,113	40%	51%	49%	53%	16%	31%
Middle School (6 to 7)	1,085	21%	50%	50%	49%	19%	32%
High School (8 to 10)	1,578	30%	55%	45%	49%	15%	36%
PUC	351	7%	55%	45%	45%	17%	38%
Degree	89	2%	72%	28%	43%	16%	42%
Diploma/Other	60	1%	83%	17%	25%	28%	47%
NFE	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	5,276	53%	47%	50%	16%	34%	

96% of School Age Children (i.e. 5-16 age group) from Normal families in functioning CSUs are in School

4,776 marks cards of Primary, Middle and High school children were updated into our data base for this academic year. College data was entered much later during June-July. We did not find even a single case of girls dropping out of school. We also noticed that girls who had passed their 10th Std. joined Pre-university. 5 girls who were interested in joining college were deterred by their parents as they could not afford the expenses. Mahila Meetings identified these cases and approached the Extension Worker. Immediately, all these 5 girls were enrolled in colleges, their fees paid in advance and bus passes made so that they do not lose one year. If they had not joined the college, there was every chance that these girls would have been married off within a year two. Bus passes were made for another 22 girls who were in need.

Parents' involvement in their children's progress at schools has shown a marked improvement during this reporting period. Not only were they eager to know how much their children scored in final exams, in some cases, they themselves brought the marks cards for updating in our database. During this reporting period, we did not find any cases of either girls or physically challenged children who had dropped of high school.

2.2. *Balakendra* Teachers

Balakendra Teacher Training sessions have become such a tradition for the *Balakendra* Teachers that they want training sessions all through the year. Training sessions are not held during March and April, but we find that some *Balakendra* Teachers just come and visit us and share with us what happened during the month. These training sessions have also become an avenue for these young women to open up their hearts and minds. They also discuss one another's personal and professional issues and strengthen one another when in crisis.

Balakendra Teacher training sessions continue on the 1st weekend of every month. Training methodology continue to be activity based, with very little or no theory classes. They were taught how to conduct contests for children through word, number and card games. They were also tested on their ability to teach during these training sessions and graded accordingly.

Monthly tests were conducted at all the *Balakendras* on school syllabus. The teacher trainers compiled question papers for the high school children, while the *Balakendra* Teachers had to prepare their own for the middle school children.

During this reporting time, *Balakendra* Teachers were trained in the Child Log Frame that was prepared for the VASS project. The Project Purpose and Objectives were shared in the Teachers' training sessions every month and results were monitored. *Balakendra* Teachers were also tested on each indicator and on how they perceived each of them.

All the *Balakendra* Teachers now maintain 8 common formats to monitor effects -School Teacher's attendance, *Balakendra* children's attendance, Marks list, Health file, Trimester lesson plan, Daily diary entries, List of all the play materials and Library books, List of teaching aids & project works.

Charts and Project works were redone during December and January sessions as most of them were damaged during monsoons. This time around all the charts were encased in water proof material and teachers were trained in maintaining, managing & storing the *Balakendra* materials well. Basic English and Math learning sessions were introduced during this reporting period and extensive use of English-Kannada pocket dictionary was also made.

SCNZ area covers 128 CSU and has 132 *Balakendra* teachers. 7 brand new villages joined their respective clusters and 9 dropped out villages made a come back after a gap. Only 110 *Balakendras* are functioning on a day-to-day basis. In 10 villages where the membership is very low and number of children is less than 15, *Balakendra* Teachers were not appointed. In 4 villages, the CSUs were not interested in finding a woman *Balakendra* Teacher! And in another 2, there were no girls who had minimum qualification of 10th standard. 1 *Balakendra* was suspended during this May when we found that a 10th Std. girl of 16 years was married off.

20 *Balakendra* Teachers were replaced during this reporting year. We are proud to say that 2 effective *Balakendra* Teachers became Taluk Secretaries and 2 more were appointed as Mahila trainers. A total of 36 *Balakendra* Teachers were given a special 15 days training in April to "catch up" with the others. All the *Balakendra* Teachers were tested on their abilities to teach and to our surprise, almost 85% of them came out as good as professional teachers!

All the Balakendra Teachers were given teaching kits -a back pack containing a long book, a diary, a pair of scissors, set of colour pencils, ruler, eraser, and pencil and sketch pens.

2.3. Indoor and Outdoor Sports Material & Steel Containers

All the *Balakendras* are equipped with a steel cupboard, trunk and Gas lanterns. 11 *Balakendras* were fitted with solar lights. 110 sets of teaching material & referral books were bought and distributed by the Case Workers to individual *Balakendras*. These included black boards, charts, attendance registers, boxes of chalk, answer sheets, etc. Apart from these, 110 sets of throw ball, football, volleyball, badminton rackets, Lezeems, marbles, spinning tops, skipping ropes, cricket sets, tambourine & bells were procured centrally and distributed in late December.

2.4. Sports and Extra Curricular Activities

Sports and extra curricular activities have become part of coolie children's lives. Participation of girls in these activities are a common sight now. They do not wait for the Balakendra Teacher to give play material. Every evening. Even if the *Balakendra* Teacher is late, older children help the younger ones. Though most of these are local games, volley ball and cricket are becoming popular. This regular playing has not only developed children physically and mentally, it has also helped many children to compete at the Taluk and District level sports with more confidence.

2.5. Children's Festival

As the number of children participating in the event increased, we had to conduct the Children's Festival in November 05 separately for Gudibanda and for Mittemari. As many as 3500 children attended these events. Children came in their colourful best for the cultural programmes. This time we saw more girls participating in rough games like *Kabbadi* and *Khokho* which are local games wearing short pants. Girls and boys played together in all the sports and games. Parents too have come to accept this new change in their girls' lives. Conducting events like children's festival has encouraged children to participate at interschool competitions at the Taluk, District and State levels. Many won prizes, and the rest were happy to just take part.

Preparations for the Children's Festival began during school holidays in October 2005. Inter-Cluster and inter-Area sports and cultural activities were held at that time. The Festival was held at Eereddipalli village in Gudibanda and Kanagamakalappali village in Mittemari. Parents, youth and the village functionaries helped the Case Workers and *Balakendra* Teachers to clear the ground & tie colourful buntings. Our Teacher Trainers helped the *Balakendra* Teachers to compile and manage cultural events. Professional Physical Education Teachers conducted the sports events. Just as last year, mid-day lunch was prepared in their respective villages and brought to the venue by *Balakendra* Teachers who were given food expenses and bus fares. We took pleasure in children inter-eating, exchanging & sharing of each others' meals.

2.6. Coaching Classes

2.6.1. WEEKEND COACHING

Balakendra Teachers conducted monthly tests in all the *Balakendras* to identify 10th Std. children who were academically weak. 215 children were identified for extra coaching before they appeared for the Board exams. Our experiment with the weekend Coaching Classes has paid rich dividends. We started these classes in late August 2006 and continued until late February 2006. 175 of the 215 attended regularly for the weekend Coaching Classes. 6 tem-

porary school Teachers were recruited. Suitable time table was made, tests were conducted at the end of the every month, children assessed and their problems sorted accordingly.

2.6.2. IN-HOUSE COACHING

During the weekend Coaching Classes, we had recruited teachers who were also teaching in the schools. They were not able to take leave for 17 days for our in-house Coaching Classes. When we started hunting for the teachers, 3 youths 1-girl and 2 boys, who had been our Balakendra children in the SCNZ programme, and have finished their Bachelor's degree in Education came forward to volunteer for the Coaching Classes.

In-house Coaching Classes began on 25th February and continued until 13th March 2006. For the past 2-3 years, the Government education department has been experimenting on how to ease children's burden with regard to quantity of homework, number of books they carried to school or making the syllabus more children friendly. This year, their attempt was with the 10th Std. final exam question paper pattern. Earlier patterns had hardly 20% of objective questions. This year they increased it to 60%. This made life easy for the 10th Std. children who were attempting board exam for the first time in their lives. But we had to change our logistics to suit the needs of new pattern.

Since we didn't have any model question papers to depend on, the Extension Workers, along with the temporary Teachers, prepared appropriate question papers for the children to work on. Suitable Time table which consisted of group discussion, group study and tests on each subject every evening was made. Teachers were oriented on how the Coaching Classes had to be conducted. Along with the 175 children another 20 children of newly tax paid members attended the In-house Coaching Classes.

Our regular Community Health Worker was on call 24 hours who took care of children's health all through our weekend and in-house Coaching Classes.

2.7. Children's Issues

There are 320 teachers in 98 Government schools in Gudibanda and Mittermari taluks. Once every 2 months, the *Balakendra* Teachers compulsorily visit government schools where our programme children are studying and survey for lack of facilities or sanction of new facilities. Though no new school buildings have been sanctioned during this reporting period, extra classrooms, kitchens and toilets have been approved.

- In Mittermari and Malligurki villages, the Mahila Meetings and the CSU together have made sure that quality works are being done on the extra classrooms.
- In Polanayakanapalli village, the school building was dilapidated. The whole cluster and ADATS staff protested against the teachers. Though moneys had been sanctioned for the repairs, the BDO's office had not released them yet. This issue was later taken up to the BEO's office. Without much delay, they sent a field officer to that village, estimations were made and repair works have begun.
- Village CSUs identified only 6 schools which did not have adequate facilities. 2 had no kitchens for the mid-day meal scheme, 3 had no playgrounds, and 1 had bad drinking water facility. The CSUs made temporary arrangements on private lands for children to play on, and themselves constructed 2 shelters for the kitchens. In 1 school, the Mahila Meetings arranged for water to be supplied until proper water cisterns were built by the government.
- During this reporting period, we found that about 5-6 Balakendra Teachers were not conducting monthly tests at the Balakendra. These teachers were warned to correct their behaviour. All the *Balakendra* Teachers maintain marks sheets which the Case Workers check and enter into our main database so that we can track the academic performance of each programme child.

- All the Balakendra Teachers maintained secret attendance on the school teachers and about completion of school syllabus. In 86 schools, the teachers had completed the entire syllabus in time and about 75% in the other 12 schools.
- The pass-percentage of children in school has gone up tremendously with 99% of children going on to the next classes. Balakendra Teachers continuously assessed children according to marks obtained in the monthly tests conducted in the Balakendras.
- In the final exams, 2725 children were able to attempt over 90% of the questions, 1352 between 60 and 90% and 429 children between 50 and 60%. We have no data of children where there is no Balakendra Teacher.
- According to the Balakendra teachers, 2312 children secured First class marks for 05-06 in the final exam.
- In the elections to the School Development & Maintenance Committees, CSU Members have been elected only into 80 of the 98 school betterment committees. Of them, in only 63 SDMC, parents are actively checking on their wards. They are keep a track of their children's attendance, marks sheet, school teachers' attendance and the budget sanctioned to the schools. Of the 320 school teachers, 251 have more than 90% attendance, 62 have between 75 and 90% and only 7 teachers have been playing truant with below 75% attendance to school.

Early Marriage

Though this has almost become non-existent within the Coolie Sangha families, this year we witnessed a horrible situation of a 16 year old getting married off against her wishes in one of the tribal villages.

- In Kampala Thana, Bhogyam was married off just before she had to join 10th Std. Her father in his drunken stupor would not listen to any logic. The whole cluster got together to stop the wedding. They put a case against him as she was still a minor. But he cleverly put a counter-case against the members saying that his daughter was well over 18 years. He convinced the police and the members that she went to school only when she was 8 years, and that she had failed in 2 classes and hence she was more than 18. The members also did not bother to look into her past record. The father took Bhagyamma overnight somewhere else and got her married.

The Mahila Meetings of the whole cluster was ashamed of this incident. This episode was discussed in the monthly GCS meeting. The representatives and the VHWs decided on the spot that they would like to increase the average marriage of girls from 18 years to 21 years. Then no 16 year old girl can be passed off as 21! This issue was discussed in all the Mahila Meetings and they too unanimously opined that this was a good decision. Though most of the CSUs had agreed upon removing this irrelevant indicator when they were making the Effects Monitoring Report, they changed their decision to make a slight change in the Mother Log Frame and in the Child Log Frame.

Simple and Choice Marriages

Most marriages were simple and were performed in village temples, at mass marriage functions, and in front of the brides' houses. The average cost of a simple wedding would range from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 as opposed to traditional ones where minimum expense is Rs 10,000 to 15,000. Falling in love and making choices are becoming common among young girls who hitherto had not been given that freedom. We also have been noticing in the past years, that when they fall in love they approach us for advice. Many CSUs said that they saw families in crisis because of big and expensive weddings. They had either sold or mortgaged their lands. They lived in debts. They also expressed that once families got used to the idea of simple weddings, registered under law, they could invest on their daughters, send them to

college, buy them a sewing machine, or help them put up a petty shop in town, or whatever. These investments would give them a lifelong income.

- During this reporting period, 5 Balakendra Teachers got married to young men that they liked, but fled from the village for almost 6 months fearing their parents' wrath. They were asked to come back, parents were counselled and houses set up for the newly weds in the same village.

2 counselling sessions for the other Balakendra Teachers were held by the Extension Worker on how to handle these delicate issues without making the young couple feel embarrassed about their situation. 9 inter-caste marriages were held during this reporting period:

- Harijana bride and Gorika groom
- Vokkaliga bride and Harijana groom
- Bovi bride and Barber groom
- Bovi bride and Vokkaliga groom
- Bovi bride and Muslim groom
- 2 cases of Harijana brides and Golla grooms
- Dommari bride and Eediga groom
- Koracha bride and Golla groom.

2.8. *Balakendra* construction

This year only 4 new *Balakendra* buildings were built and completed by 31 March 2006. 1 was constructed in Ninchinabandappali in Gudibanda Taluk and another 3 in Mittermari Hobli.

2.9. Scholarship Benefits

2.9.1. PROCUREMENT

Considering children's complaint that they did not have sufficient pages left at the end of the year if they were given 100 page note books, we had to rethink our strategy and ordered an appropriate mixture of 144 and 184 pages note books. Calculating children's needs, V Std. to X Std. children had to be given 12 -184 pages for the whole year, along with geometry boxes, while I to IV Std. children needed 4 -144 pages note books and a small black board.

Since we had given uniforms the previous year, children asked for fancy coloured clothes this time. So we had to check out factories that made these kinds of clothes. One factory in Mumbai which has a sub outlet in Bangalore agreed to meet our needs. We took sample sizes, tested out with our children, made some modifications and ordered 2 sets of clothes for each child.

2.9.2. DISTRIBUTION

Scholarship distribution for this academic year though had its ups and downs, went off smoothly. Books were given out during one phase and clothes & school fees in an other. There were 2 reasons for this. One was that we did not have enough space to store book and clothes together and two; delivery of clothes took a little more time than expected.

Children from the 10 Balakendras where Balakendra Teachers were not appointed due to lack of child strength were given benefits after the Mahila Meetings took responsibility for these Balakendras. As in previous years, the Coolie Sangha decided that children of parents with CCF OD would not benefit from the programme. 9% i.e. 353 children did not get books, clothes, and fees as their parents had not repaid their loans. Number of entire Balakendras that did benefit during this year due to various reasons:

- 1 *Balakendra* was suspended because a young girl was married off before the legal age

- 2 *Balakendras* due to sheer negligence of Balakendra Teachers and the CSU members
- 8 *Balakendras* as most of the parents had not repaid their loans in time.

2.10. Board Exam Results

Trimester system was introduced in all classes except 10th Std. as these children faced board exam. We are just amazed at how fast the children can adapt to new circumstances and new ways of learning. Children from 9th Std. who underwent trimester system for the whole of previous year had to get back to the old ways. But, again, the question paper pattern was changed and children had to learn new ways of answering the paper. In the new pattern, the question paper consisted of answer booklet as well and children had to be very precise in answering.

When the results were announced, we were shocked out of our wits when we heard that one of our coolie girls 032 Streelekha from Yelloodu village had scored 87% marks. Her name was listed under “Distinction” category! That’s not all, 148 children passed in 1st class scoring between 70 & 80% marks & 39 in 2nd class scoring between 50 & 70% marks! 30 children failed after 2nd attempt in June. But they are being groomed in the *Balakendras* to take up another supplementary. Girls have clearly outsmarted the boys this time. 7 children dropped out in the last minute, without taking the exams. The results of another 46 children are in limbo as their parents might not have paid their taxes and renewed their membership in January 06.

X Std. Exams (2005-2006) in SCNZ supported villages (31 July 2006)

	Girls		Boys		Total	
Appeared	142	100%	176	100%	318	100%
Passed	115	81%	120	68%	235	74%
Failed	9	6%	21	12%	30	9%
Dropped-out	3	2%	4	2%	7	2%
No Result	15	11%	31	18%	46	14%

3. YOUTH PROGRAMME

3.1. Skill Training & Job Placement

We were approached by another 2 major garment factories and Security guards recruiting office to employ our youth. With monthly average salaries ranging from Rs 2,500 to almost Rs 4,000, 84 youth were employed in these sectors. These work places offered other incentives like free boarding, subsidized food and medical facilities for their whole families. Though some of our youth were tempted by the salaries and other benefits, they preferred to continue their studies and attend at least one IT camp before they thought about getting jobs. Other than expenses for bus fares to send the youth for their appointment, ADATS did not have other setting costs.

Apart from that, another 69 Coolie youth found jobs by themselves in the city this year. 9 work in Iron & Steel Factories, 7 in Handloom Factory, 9 in Garments factory, 3 in fresh juice bar, 5 in a Paper Factory, 6 as Drivers, 3 as tempo cleaners, 2 as Electricians, 9 as Masons, 4 in oil factory, 4 in Soap factory and 4 as Security Guards.

3.2. Computer Training

166 girls and 154 boys attended 10 Life Skill Training sessions during this reporting period. 1 more camp is underway at the time of writing this Progress Report.

52% of the attendees were girls but this was more because of insistence by ADATS. As of today, 53% of the youth are Harijans and Tribals, 17% from middle castes, and 30% from upper castes.

Computer Training Camps held from 1 April 2005 to 31 July 2006

Batch	Start Date	End Date	Taluk/Area	Attended	Course Completed		Total Trained	
					Boys	Girls		
18 th	05-Apr-05	06-May-05		37	22	13	35	95%
19 th	12-Jun-05	13-Jul-05		29	19	9	28	97%
20 th	11-Aug-05	15-Sep-05		32	13	18	31	97%
21 st	28-Sep-05	29-Oct-05		21	12	6	18	86%
22 nd	10-Nov-05	12-Dec-05		19	10	9	19	100%
23 rd	27-Dec-05	29-Jan-06		20	11	9	20	100%
24 th	01-Feb-06	02-Mar-06		35	8	27	35	100%
25 th	20-Mar-06	22-Apr-06		34	15	18	33	97%
26 th	27-Apr-06	27-May-06		36	16	18	34	94%
27 th	02-Jun-06	05-Jul-06		43	17	25	42	98%
28 th	15-Jul-06	15-Aug-06		26	11	14	25	96%
TOTAL				332	154	166	320	96%

Of the 332 Coolie youth who attended, 320 (96%) successfully completed the month-long camp.

At the end of each batch, our IT Trainers rate each Trainee on 14 parameters. These include 6 IT skills (MS Word, Excel, Kannada word processing, Email, and the ADATS/Coolie Sangha Intranet), comfort in English, Math and Science, and general factors like participation in sports, games, songs, dance, team spirit, gender sensitivity, being presentable and personal hygiene.

Based on this assessment, 5% of the youth are “Proficient” and 49% are “Good”. 31% “Just Managed”, and it is doubtful if 16% really benefited from the camps.

3.3. Youth Groups

Coolie youth taking Sangha responsibilities:

In the CSU meetings, members pointed out the difference between young leaders and the older ones. They said that, aged CSU functionaries behaved like leaders and proper information was not given to ordinary members. Now, many Coolie youth go to colleges, towns and cities, and bring new ideas into the CSUs. They also inform everyone about government works sanctioned from the Gram and Taluk Panchayat. When the management systems were introduced in the Coolie Sangha, it was easier for young functionaries to understand the concepts and implement them. Not just the boys, even Coolie girls participated effectively in issues and struggles.

Some of these Coolie youth have been elected to the Gram Panchayats as well. They have become role models to others in the villages. The CSUs also agree that only if the CSUs are

strong will Coolie youth continue to be loyal and hardworking towards their people and ideology. Otherwise, they too can be corrupted by the mainstream. It is the CSU and Mahila Meetings that should prevent them from acting like heroes.

Apart from the 109 Balakendra Teachers, coolie youth who have taken up Sangha responsibilities actively:

- 56 as CSU Representatives
- 6 as Cluster Secretaries
- 8 as VHWs
- 2 as Taluk Secretaries
- 2 as Mahila Trainers (though they are ADATS paid employees)

Coolie youth are being continuously exposed to various Life Skills like IT and other trainings imparted by ADATS. They also attend vocational skills in and around the city. They are attending colleges and emphasis is now gradually been given to girls continuing in college. Though sex ratio of girls to boys in Pre-University is almost equal, they seem to be either failing their 2nd yr or just dropping out in the middle.

The youth seem to have improved their conceptualization skills. In the CSUs, young people are given important jobs like identifying candidates to stand for GP elections and canvassing for them. We notice that this has improved their self-esteem. They are given chance to express new ideas in the CSU Meetings and this has made Coolie youth feel that they are “wanted” by the community.

Parents of girls are increasingly coming out of their closed mindsets. They are showing complete confidence in their girls who attend youth camps stay overnight with boys in villages and towns. It has become a common practice to send their girls for month long IT camps. Even coaching classes last for many weeks. They get to learn new ideas.

Balakendra Teachers have introduced coolie youth to different ideas & ways of talking and dressing. Coolie girls have started wearing trousers instead of traditional long skirts. Others too are being influenced by this change in attitude. Coolie youth are proving that just studying is not enough, but good socialization practices are essential for a healthy development.

Coolie girls too have started earning just like boys. They are going out of villages, making new friends and are speaking in English! They want to get married only when they feel they are ready for it. This we think is a great achievement by itself. When we compare the present generation of Coolie youth with those who had somehow managed to finish 10th Std. before the ADATS programme started, we find that they are not as self-confident as the present day cohorts.

4. HEALTH

Annual health check-up for children began in September 05 and ended in January 06 for all the villages of SCNZ area. Mr. Sudharshan, a government health worker who has been with us for the past 8 years continue to be of immense assistance whenever there is a health issue. Whether during an epidemic or in an emergency, he has been there for the coolie children. This activity has had a tremendous effect not only on children’s health, but has also instilled awareness in mothers to take care of their children’s health without much delay. As such, the number of children who were referred to major hospital during this reporting time stands at a mere 17 -General-1, ENT-7, Eye problem -1, Fits-4, Dental-3 & TB-1. We also noticed that number of children being absent to school due to illness has almost become zero.

- Over 90% attendance = 2296 children
- Between 80% and 90% attendance = 1436 children

- Between 75% and 80% attendance = 63 children.

Case Workers took Sudharshan along with them to each *Balakendra*. They, along with the *Balakendra* Teachers assisted him in checking up all the children. First aid medicines, de-worming medication, Iron and Vitamin supplements were carried along and disbursed according to the needs of the children.

A record of medication that had been dispensed was maintained and new stocks were given out after reporting to the Extension Workers. In all, 1,219 children were given simple medication for minor ailments.

6. SANGHA FUNDS

5.1. Sangha Tax

Income Declared in SCNZ supported villages (31 July 2006)

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%
2005	4,363	+29%	128	20,261,756	+35%	4,644	+5%

- 4,270 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%.
- Average Sangha Tax paid by each Coolie family is high at Rs 225 per family.

Sangha Tax Paid in in SCNZ supported villages (31 July 2006)

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%
2006	4,270	+28%	128	963,939	+37%	225	+7%	4.86%

- As of today, 156 (99%) village CSUs and 6,442 (94%) Member Coolie families (in the ADATS/SCNZ area) have participated in the Sangha Tax process.
- More than 73% of the village CSUs and 76% of Coolie families rank in the Excellent and Very Good categories.

Sangha Tax Performance in SCNZ supported villages (31 July 2006)

Excellent	71 village CSUs (65 last year)	46%	3,428 families (2,787 last year)	53%
Very Good	42 village CSUs (47 last year)	27%	1,460 families (1,733 last year)	23%
Good	8 village CSUs (16 last year)	5%	406 families (507 last year)	6%
Not Good	37 village CSUs (22 last year)	24%	1,148 families (595 last year)	18%

5.2. Sangha Funds

Sangha Funds grew to a very impressive Rs 14 million (*up 39% in the past 16 months back*). Quite apart from the physical volume of money available, the collective habit of paying to self-finance their organisation is well in place in the ADATS/SCNZ villages.

Sangha Funds in SCNZ supported villages (31 July 2006)

	31 March 2005		This Report	
Taluk Main Savings Bank Account	16,805	-	45,093	-
Taluk Fixed Deposits	450,000	4%	450,000	3%
Village Savings Bank Accounts	1,005,853	10%	1,213,064	9%
Village Fixed Deposits	8,652,475	86%	12,350,700	88%
		10,125,258	14,058,857	

6. COOLIE CREDIT FUNDS

6.1. Status of the CCFs

While the Overdue problem reported in the previous 2 Progress Reports have by no means been solved, the village CCFs are definitely on the way to recovery, following the plan that was earlier adopted by the village CSUs.

Status of the CCFs in SCNZ supported villages (cumulative as on 31 July 2006)

Total CCF Capital		11,283,496	100%
Total of Good Loans		967,750	9%
Total of Overdue		2,243,954	20%
1 to 6 Months Late	5,800	-	
7 to 12 Months Late	499,104	22%	
Over 1 Year Late	1,739,050	77%	
Bad Debts		600	-
Bank Balances		8,071,143	72%

6.2. CCF Utilisation Pattern

- 1,550 loans worth Rs 3,196,644 were given out by 66 village CCFs during this reporting period.
- 1,677 instalments worth Rs 2,319,267 were repaid by 84 village CCFs during this same period.

Crop Loans continued to be the purpose for which maximum amounts were borrowed, followed by Trade & Entrepreneurship. While this definitely allows Member Coolie families to raise crops (as opposed to the earlier, demeaning, practice of keeping Coolie lands barren during the cultivation season), the flip side of this is that village CSUs still view the CCFs as a mass-lending scheme to raise crops. They still haven't quite internalised the feeling that the CCFs are to solve all their individual and personal credit requirements.

CCF Utilisation Pattern in SCNZ supported villages (cumulative as on 31 July 2006)

Purpose	Amount Borrowed		No of Loans	
Crop Loans	10,821,729	54%	6,387	72%
Agriculture	268,203	1%	89	1%
Cattle	2,741,595	14%	1,025	12%
Trade & Enterprise	6,133,345	31%	1,189	13%
Consumption & others	77,825	-	120	1%
Total	20,042,697	100%	8,810	100%

6.3. CCF Performance

20 villages improved their performance in this reporting period and went into a better category. But the number of village CCFs rated as "Excellent" remained unchanged. As has been pointed out many times before, this is because the unsparing and strict algorithm of CCF performance does not recognise temporary adjustments, *et al.*

CCF Performance in SCNZ supported villages (cumulative as on 31 July 2006)

Excellent	10 Village CCFs (10 in last report)	7%
Very Good	29 Village CCFs (34 in last report)	20%
Good	36 Village CCFs (48 in last report)	25%
Not Good	71 Village CCFs (51 in last report)	49%

88.8% of the cumulative loans taken have been repaid by borrowers, but 20% of the capital is still at risk.

CCF Performance in SCNZ supported villages (cumulative as on 31 July 2006)

CCF Capital	Rs 11,283,496
Cumulative loans given	Rs 20,042,697
Rotation of Capital	1.78 times
Number of Loans	8,810
Average Borrowing	Rs 2,274
Repayment Rate { $100 - (\text{Overdue} + \text{Bad Debts} / \text{Cumulative Loans} \times 100)$ }	88.8 %
Capital at Risk { $\text{Overdue} / \text{Capital}$ }	20 %

A stricter appraisal based on banking standards shows that in spite of the Repayment Rate being 88%, Exposed Portfolio Rate and Delinquency Rate are at 70%, well above the acceptable 15%. The quality of the loan portfolio is markedly better in functioning village CSUs when compared to the dropped out villages.

Quality of the Loan Portfolio in SCNZ supported villages (31 July 2006)

	Functioning Villages	Cancelled Village	Overall
Exposed Portfolio Rate (outstanding balance of contaminated loans / Total outstanding; ideal = 15%)	63%	91%	70%
Delinquency Rate (total overdue / total outstanding; ideal =15%)	62%	91%	70%
Recovery Rate (repayments made to date / repayments that had to be made to date; ideal = 90%)	91%	68%	88%

7. DRY LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

7.1. DLDP Plan Utilisation

During this reporting period, two separate spates of DLDP works were carried out in the summer months of 2005 and 2006. 84% of the Rs 3.8 million worth of labour plans were utilised without any hitches. Member Coolie families formed themselves into work gangs in each village and descended on each other's lands and worked according to these DLDP Plans.

DLDP Plans & Utilisation in SCNZ supported villages (31 July 2006)

Taluk	Villages	2006 DLDP Plans		Completed / Utilised			
		Works	Allotment	Works		Paid	
Gudibanda	14	315	576,775	227	72%	395,425	69%
Mitterari	51	1,547	3,222,175	1,398	90%	2,805,950	87%
	65	1,862	3,798,950	1,625	87%	3,201,375	84%

7.2. DLDP Works Done

The actual works done on their lands continue to be impressive – clearing shrubs and boulders, building contour bunds, checking ravines and gullies, digging diversion channels, deepening open wells, digging farm ponds, etc.

For the very first time, in 2006, critical CSU Meetings declared works on 124 acres as “wasted” since tangible soil and water conservation structures were not built on Member lands. This too is an indicator of the seriousness with which they view DLDP works – however severe the drought/famine may be, the refuse to view DLDP works as a mere succour providing activity.

S&WC Works Carried out (cumulative as on 31 July 2006)

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
Villages	79	98	119	89	63	130
Wage paid	1,313,350	2,859,295	3,300,298	4,508,680	3,194,525	15,176,148

Description	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Unit
Cleared Shrubs & Boulders	125	465	1,545	1,216	314	3,666	Acres
Built New Contour Bunds	56,405	85,064	82,339	86,379	37,666	347,853	Metres
Strengthened Existing Bunds	14,987	18,487	23,775	12,542	28,124	97,915	Metres
Built Field Bunds	4,928	20,007	20,183	9,479	10,206	64,803	Metres
Checked Ravine & Gully	21	193	211	216	225	866	Number
Dug Diversion Channel	10,202	6,933	4,314	7,053	2,581	31,083	Metres
Built Retention Wall (Kanji)	1,145	7,634	12,111	10,493	3,850	35,233	Metres
Deepened Open Well	1	4	5	4	2	16	Number
Dug Farm Pond	1	2	9	2		14	Number
Dug Pits for Trees				2	100	102	Acres
Built Cattle Wall	780	2,529	1,772	1,047	1,119	7,247	Metres
Built Path/Road		100	33	92	86	311	Metres
Wasted Work		3	2	1	124	130	Acres

7.3. DLDP Results

The net result of having conducted 10 years of DLDP works in the summer months is that 38% of Coolie lands are on par with that of *Ryots*.

An additional Rs 16.7 million worth of DLDP works need to be done in the next 5 years to bring all Coolie lands on par with that of surrounding middle peasants. However, ADATS and the Coolie Sangha have decided not to implement DLDP works any longer since we have decided to struggle for the honest implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (EGA), 2005. This is a central legislation, covering the whole of India, whereby one person from each rural household is given a constitutional guarantee of 100 days of work at a minimum wage of Rs 60 per day.

We are not naïve. Everyone realises that the EGA is prone to a lot of corruption and could end up as an easy source of money for village leaders and political touts. However, we are determined to undertake a huge campaign to ensure the honest and intended implementation of this long overdue fundamental right to employment.

DLDP Works Needed in the SCNZ villages (as on 31 July 2006)

Acres	Percent	Works Needed	Amount
3,422	23%	No work needed	
2,270	15%	1 year work needed	1,135,125
2,998	20%	2 years work needed	2,998,500
2,472	16%	3 years work needed	3,707,850
1,536	10%	4 years work needed	3,072,000
2,332	16%	5 years work needed	5,828,750
15,030			Rs 16,742,225