

Indo Sri Lankan Development (Island) Trust



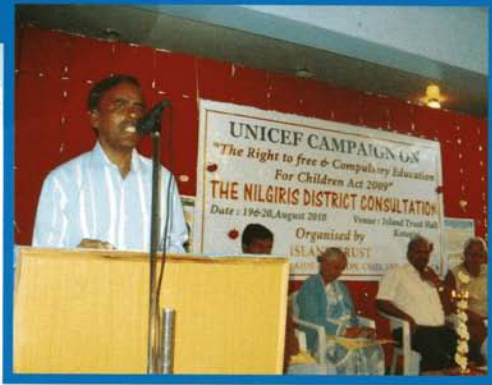
A Mission with Vision

'ISLAND' TRUST which stands for Indo Sri Lankan Development Trust was founded in July 1984 in Tamil Nadu, South India by renowned social activists and educationists to render succor, relief and rehabilitation services to the displaced Tamil Repatriates from Sri Lanka.

Island Trust has completed quarter a century walking with its target group developing their capacities in a professional and yet down-to-earth approach to identify the resources and the opportunities to attain their holistic development.

The foot prints of Island trust demonstrate that the Repatriates from Sri Lanka, local plantation laborers belonging to Dalit communities and the native Tribal communities in the Nilgiris were able to accomplish their needs and move towards self reliance by raising their level of capacity through well designed sustainable and rights oriented programmes of Island Trust.

The multifaceted activities of the Trust aim at the development of Children, women and youth from the marginalized communities. Among its various projects, priority is given to Education, Livelihood Promotion, Care and Support for Persons Living with HIV/ AIDS and Climate Change Reduction projects. **Island Trust** now serves in 225 Villages in the 6 taluks of Nilgiris district.



Our Vision

“Option for the Poor and Action for their Empowerment”

Our Mission

“Empowerment of the Marginalized through Mobilization, Motivation, Education and Networking”

1. EDUCATION

Activities

- Education Campaign and formation of school education committees
- Education Assistance
- Supplementary School
- Scholarship / Stipend for higher Education.
- Vocational & Career Guidance

2. HEALTH

2.1. Awareness and Intervention

Activities

- Preventive Health Education
- Organizing of Health Camps in collaboration with GH Departments
- Formation of Health Clubs
- School Health Awareness (Child to Child Approach)
- HIV / AIDS – Preventive Education & elimination of denial, Stigma & Discrimination
- Promotion of Herbal garden and Indigenous system of Medicine.

- Serving as the District Health Resource Centre for more than one decade for state level health network organization called 'Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association', Chennai.



2.2 Care and Support for the Persons Living with HIV / AIDS

Community Care Centre for PLHIV

A care home for the PLHIV is being run by Island trust in Ooty with the support of the Tamil Nadu State Government through Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (www.tansacs.org).

The PLHIV at the CCC are attended to by one full time Allopathic Doctor, three staff nurses, one counselor, four outreach workers and two helpers. The Centre is administered by a project coordinator and an accountant. As at the end of

December 2010, 305 PLHIV have received Care and Support from the centre. Out of these 305, 130 are men (including 8 male children) and 174 are women (including 8 female children) and 1 transgender.

Every PLHIV is followed up after their discharge from the CCC and assisted with social care which ensures enjoyment of their fundamental rights, right to Life and Dignity and getting welfare services from the Government system.



Deepavali Celebration at CCC

HIV prevention in Rural Areas

A project known as **Link Workers Scheme** is implemented in 120 villages in 30 panchayats of the Nilgiris district with the specific objective of reaching out to High Risk Groups (HRG) and vulnerable Men and women in rural areas with information, knowledge, skills on STI / HIV prevention and risk reduction. It is an effort to build a community- centred model for rural areas

to address HIV prevention, Care and support and treatment requirements in the district.

The project is implemented with the support of NACO /TANSACS / APAC (AIDS Prevention and Control Project) (www.apacvhs.org). The project assists HRG people living with STI and refers them to Government Health Departments to get adequate treatment to prevent HIV infection.

3. TRIBALEMPOWERMENT

- **Adhivasi Development Initiatives & Fifth Schedule Campaign**

Activities

- Community organization
- Education promotion
- Capacity Building of Tribal leaders
- Campaign for the Constitutional Right of 5th schedule (Self Rule)



- Legal Aid for land Rights / FRA 2006
- Cultural shows and functions
- Documentation of their traditional knowledge systems

4. CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION AND REDUCTION:

Island Trust is seriously engaged in protecting the Environment of the Nilgiris since 1990s. Our volunteer watch dog committees in the name of Nature's Eyelids have done yeomen service in protecting the environmental sanctity of the Nilgiris Biosphere. (Please refer our service on Environment).

As one step further, Island Trust has plunged into educating the public and our focus group communities especially the tribal communities about the Climate Change Impacts and facilitating their involvement in reducing it.

Our activities in Climate Change Project include:

- Climate change education in villages and schools
Study of People's experience on Climate Change Video documentation of Climate Change effects (Ref: www.tamwed.org)

- Campaign with Local Bodies – Panchayats and Municipalities
- Rallies and Public Meetings for awareness generation on Climate Change
- Planting of 25000 Saplings in tribal and community lands in 2009 - 2010
- Facilitation of life style changes among the community members
- Promotion of Organic Farming and Sustainable Agriculture Exhibitions on Climate Change effects in the Nilgiris District at important Government Functions and gatherings
- Filing of legal cases against grabbing of natural resources Organizing 350.org Climate Change Action Day at the district Level
- Strengthening of Nature's Eyelids Environmental Protection Group with open membership to CBOs and environmental activists.



Environmental Protection Group with open membership to CBOs and environmental activists.
Island Trust

receives funding support from TAMWED, a UK based NGO (www.tamwed.org) for Climate Change activities since 2009.

5. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT Activities

- Formation of SHGs
- Entrepreneurship Development Training
- Leadership training for women particularly for the Elected women representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (local bodies)
- Economic development for widows and destitute
- Campaign and advocacy for women rights



5.1. Promotion of Women Leadership in Local Governance (PRI)

To ensure political participation of women in the Three Tier Governance as per the Panchayat Raj Act (73rd amendment to the Indian



Constitution), a campaign and training has been undertaken since 1996.

Our efforts are complimented by The **Hunger Project, USA / India** (www.thp.org) and a serious process of building Women Leadership in PRI is taking place. Currently 152 Elected Women Representatives (EWR) are given hand holding support by Island trust through capacity building training on PRI Act, Administration of PRI, the new acts and schemes related to PRI, Leadership skills and the Campaign and Advocacy skills.

They are also federated into Block Level and District Level federations. This gives them the courage to assert their rights and leadership in panchayat raj system. The trained EWR

are functioning with Self Esteem, Independence and Commitment.

6. ENVIRONMENT

Activities

- Eco-club formation in Schools and in Communities (where schools do not exist).
- Campaign against the use of Plastics, Mining, Undue Commercialization of Natural Resources
- Interaction programmes between CBOs and forest officials on preservation / promotion of forest and collection Non timber Forest Produces.
- Planning & implementation of water shed programmes.



- Promotion of Sustainable agriculture / alternative farming.
- Tree planting and protection
- Study about the status of environment and sustainability level of the target communities before and after intervention.
- Campaign and Lobby for protection of forests and community resources

7. TRAINING AND RESOURCE CENTRE

Island Trust serves as a training and resource centre for NGOs, CBOs, SHG Federations, tribal movements, organizations working with People with Disabilities / HIV-AIDS, Children etc. and conducts training according to the needs of the organizations. Island Trust has a team of professionally qualified and experienced trainers on thematic subjects and skill development of staffs and people's leaders. It has a beautiful and well equipped training centre with modest facilities which caters to the needs of NGOs / CBOs at an affordable cost. Social work students from Madras School of Social Work and Peryiar Maniyammai University, Thanjavur

have also made use of our resource centre facilities.

8. OVERSEAS VOLUNTEER EXPOSURE PROGRAMME

Island Trust receives volunteers from abroad who want to have exposure in our projects and communities and share their expertise in the areas of our intervention. We welcome overseas volunteers in the areas of Education, Health, Environment, Climate Change, Research and Development and Children's programme.





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