

## **About Read Foundation**

Rural Education and Development Foundation (Read) is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization dedicated to the promotion and improvement of the Socio-economic welfare of the people of the suppressed and oppressed communities. This organization was registered as a Trust under the Indian Trust act 1882 on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1996 at Pudukkottai. The Registration number is 94/96. This Trust is also registered under FCRA and is entitled to receive foreign funds.

The target area of Read is Illuppur and Kulathur Taluk of Pudukkottai District, Tamilnadu and covers a population of 482,104. The target groups of Read are people living in abject poverty especially women belonging to oppressed communities and children at risk.

### **Vision;**

To uplift socio-economically marginalized rural community to the more equitable world.

### **Mission**

Awareness generation, education and economic development programmes through community organizations

### **What we do:**

Areas of work include gender equality and women's rights, human rights, formation of groups, literacy, migration, health education, HIV/AIDS, livelihood promotion, micro credit, vocational skill training, and promotion of reproductive and child health. Our target groups are home-based women workers, young women garment workers, footwear workers, open mines workers, adolescent girls and children, migrant workers, dalits, farmers and fishing communities.

Our strategies and activities include direct intervention among children, women and workers at work premises and residential areas, formation of community strengthening structures, promoting Industry Level Worker Facilitators and peer educators, networking and alliance building with national and international organizations that share our vision, liaison with Trade Unions, Government officials and Employers Associations, rescue and rehabilitation of child laborers and children at risk, research & documentation, village level preventive healthcare services, legal aid and support, national and international campaigns and lobbying and advocacy.

### **Where we work: About Pudukottai District**

Pudukkottai District was carved out of Tiruchirappalli and Thanjavur districts in January 1974. The district has an area of 4663 Sq. Km. with a coast line of 39 Kms. The district lies between 78.25' and 79.15' of the Eastern Longitude and between 9.50' and 10.40' of the Northern Latitude. It is bounded by Tiruchirappalli district in the North and West, Sivaganga district in the South, Bay of Bengal in the East and Thanjavur district in the North East.

Pudukkottai district is one of the smallest districts in Tamil Nadu with an area of 4,661 Sq. kms. And a total population of 11, 56,813 persons living in 747 villages and eight towns as on 1981. The district lies between latitudes 9.50-30N" and 10.44'and longitudes 78.-25-5"E and 79.-16'13. It has borders with Thiruchirrapalli in the north, Thanjavur in the north-east and with PasumponMuthramalingam and Ramanathapuram Districts in the south The district is divided at present into seven taluks,viz.,Kulathur, Thirumayam, Alangudi, Arantangi, Pudukkottai,Gandarvakottai and Avudaiyarkoil.

### **Achievements of Read Foundation**

- Pasumai Home Based Women Workers and Un Organized Workers Union which is registered Under the Trade Union Act.
  - Home Based Women Workers Resource Centre
  - Identified 5732 women working as home based workers and formed them into groups.
  - 326 women groups with 4238 membership.
  - Promoted Income generation Activities among women of marginalized communities and improved their economic standard. 2136 persons are engaged in income generation enterprises.
  - Micro credit help was made available to 2492 people, a total of Rs.32739435
  - Awareness programmes were organized on various issues and problems and effected a change in the mindset of the general population.
  - Capacity building programmes were organized for the women group members and transformed them into able administrations and efficient leaders.
  - Children working in industrial institutions and children of migrant parents were identified, from the target area and created them accessibility for education.
  - Health education was given to the rural women and members of poor families and made them aware about the good health Principles and made to avail the existing health services in their vicinity. Herbal gardens were promoted by us and 460 herbal gardens are raised in the backward of the houses and use these herbs for the curing their diseases.
  - Conducted four special schools from 2002-2006 which was supported by NCLP.
  - Residential school project was run at Annavasal in which 36 children benefitted.
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- **Programmes 1996-2011**
  - Schools for Child laborers
  - Sustainable agricultures
  - Reproductive Health for women and Maternity care for women and children
  - Village ambulance service
  - Micro credit in women's Self Help Groups
  - Organizing unorganized workers
  - Home Based Women Workers
  - Young Women Garment Workers
  - Dalit Empowerment
  - Foot wear workers

- Disaster Management and Preparedness (Tsunami - supported fishing community on coast with recovery programmes focusing on livelihood)