

0415. 13th Progress Report on the SCNZ Programme (Oct 2003)

The past 7 months have been an extremely hectic and satisfying period in the 6½ year history of the ADATS/SCNZ community sponsorship scheme.

- More than 5,000 children finished their school year and were promoted to the next academic year.
- A new life-skill activity to familiarise 500 children every year with the fundamentals of computer usage, email and internet surfing was started; After training 182 children, we are now in the 6th monthly batch of this training.
- Massive DLDP works were implemented to provide wage labour and succour to thousands of families in this the 4th year of drought, impoverishment and disinvestment of family assets.
- Member Coolie families repaid their CCF Overdue with great difficulty and re-borrowed huge crop loans in a spirit of optimism.
- A Customer Demands & Satisfaction survey was successfully implemented, meeting thousands of pressing demands of Member Coolie families; Results were reviewed and the next Agenda for this CD&S survey was finalised.
- 2 big studies were undertaken to assess the impact of the programme and possibilities for its replication in non-SCNZ villages. A participatory evaluation of the just completed 3 year DLDP programme was carried out in Chintamani taluk (*not in the direct purview of this community sponsorship scheme*).
- Coolie landholdings were resurveyed and the database updated.
- Staff and functionaries continued to receive OD training to improve their facilitation skills and overall capacity.

April 2003	Teacher Training material developed & printed; Summer camp held; DLDP Works & Wage Payments
May 2003	Marks Cards collected and database updated; Netball team selected; Computer training started; DLDP works completed
June 2003	School admissions and re-admissions undertaken; Scholarship material, library & reference books, sports material and <i>Balakendra</i> Teacher kits distributed; CCF Overdue repaid ; Crop loans released
July 2003	Facilitated village meetings for Anita Ravishankar evaluation; Closed the CD&S Summer Agenda '03
August 2003	Annual health check-up started; Discussed Anita Ravishankar Report in special CSU Meetings; Facilitated Village Meetings for Murray Culshaw study; Reviewed CD&S Summer Agenda '03 Results
September 2003	John Bowis & Debbie Petlueng visit; Finalised Anita Ravishankar evaluation report; Finalised Murray Culshaw study report; Continued annual health check-up; Village Identified demands for the CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03; Land survey started; Participatory evaluation of Chintamani DLDP
October 2003	Completed annual health check-up; Completed land survey; Finalised the CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03; Started the Corruption Survey

1. MEMBERSHIP & COVERAGE

1.1. Socio-political Presence

In our previous Progress Report, we defined socio-political Presence as the capacity of the village CSU to influence village/taluk level happenings at a broader level. We went on to say that a 2 pronged strategy was needed to convert this into a strength that would permanently alter the power balance in favour of the Coolie caste-class. 7 months down the line, overall socio-political Presence continues to be high at 50% (*down 1% point from 31 March 2003, due to data correction*) with a potential to rise to 58%.

- It is even higher at 54% in Mitemmari, with a potential to rise to an enviable 66%.
- In Gudibanda Taluk the figures are 45% and 47% respectively, still short of permitting Member Coolies from going it alone.

Coverage continues to remain unchanged at 31% of the region's population.

Socio-political Presence Rating in SCNZ supported villages (31 October 2003)

Excellent	81 village CSUs	54%
Very Good	29 village CSUs	19%
Good	16 village CSUs	11%
Not Good	24 village CSUs	16%

What happens in the next 2-3 months is crucial since 2004 is election year. Membership and coverage figures will get established through Income Declaration/Tax Payment in December/January. Though the Coolie Sangha will have no direct programme involvement in these ensuing general elections, they will nevertheless influence its outcome as voters.

After carefully gauging their capacity to influence, they will have to chalk out a strategy for the immediately following local body Gram Panchayat elections. Without socio-political Presence, village CSUs will not be able to achieve the project goal and stated programme objectives – be it the maintenance of caste-free communal harmony, establishing corruption-free civic services, protecting women in families, child focus, or whatever.

1.2. Membership

There is hardly any change in membership figures over the past 7 months. This is because after membership lists were finalised at the village CSU level through Income Declaration in December and Tax Payments in January, there have only been some minor data corrections.

Coverage in SCNZ supported villages (31 October 2003)

	31 March 2003	This Report
Number of village CSUs	131	130
Normal Member families	3,518	3,493
Cancelled Members in functioning village CSUs	1,676	1,726
Women Memberships	1,194 (34%)	1,197 (34%)
Coverage of village population	34%	34%

Caste Group Composition in SCNZ supported villages (31 October 2003)

Member Families	% in CSUs	Caste Group	Village Population	Ethnic Cover
1,918	55%	Scheduled Castes/Tribes	4,748	44%
562	16%	Middle Castes	2,209	25%
1,013	29%	Upper Castes	3,352	30%
3,493			10,309	34%

1.3. Stories from the Field

- Bogepalli is a fairly big village where we have limited coverage. Not all the Coolies are in the village CSU. A local *Ryot*, who was the Secretary of the Milk Collection Centre, misused Rs 50,000. CSU Members were very upset. They organised village level protests and got him removed from the post. Non CSU Members were unable to defend the thief because he was evidently in the wrong.

But matters took a peculiar turn. The dismissed Secretary had a Harijana boy working as his private tractor driver. Unfortunately this boy's family was not in the village CSU. He got this driver boy to book a false complaint stating that he too had been abused and beaten by CSU Members. An untouchability/atrocity case was booked and 2 CSU Members are still in jail while another 5 are out on bail.

ADATS Field Staff are busy arranging bail for those still inside, and in preparing their legal defence. But in the meantime, the CSU has definitely become weaker due to this failed struggle.
- At Beachaganapalli the post of cook for the government school mid-day meal scheme was reserved for a Harijana woman. But the Gram Panchayat President and others appointed an upper caste woman.

CSU Members wanted to politicise this matter by approaching the MLA. ADATS Staff advised them to represent the matter with officials since there was a clear violation of rules and regulations. They followed our advice and represented to Taluk officials. The illegal appointment was cancelled and a Harijana woman appointed as cook. Children and government school teachers had no problem and the scheme is running smoothly ever since.
- At Lakkepalli village, a woman suddenly turned up with 2 children, claiming that she was deserted by her husband and had nowhere to go. The younger of her children, a 1½ year old girl, was paralysed from waist down. CSU Members, in spite of their own poverty, welcomed her and gave shelter. After a week, the woman took her older son and disappeared. CSU Members were unable to trace her.

The Mahila Meeting handled this issue all by themselves. In spite of herself being poor and having a large family, the CSU Representative took the child as her own and has decided to adopt her. The entire CSU is supportive and they have sanctioned a small monthly assistance for her to buy milk for the child.
- At Kondavalapalli village, a local *Ryot* encroached upon 4 acres of land which was reserved for the Harijana graveyard. Once again, CSU Members wanted to politicise the matter. But ADATS Staff advised them to approach the Tahsildar Court. They got a stay to stop the *Ryot* from tilling the land. The issue is yet to be finally settled as per law.
- At Someswara CSU, Pyarima had a land dispute with a *Ryot*. The Court judgement was in favour of Pyarima but the *Ryot* and his sons refused to let her till the land. All 30 CSU Members got together and ploughed the field in favour of Pyarima and lodged a

police complaint against the *Ryot*.

Non CSU Members realised that the CSU was very serious in supporting a single woman. They intervened to make the *Ryot* apologise and got the police complaint withdrawn. Pyarima is now in peaceful possession of her 2½ acres.

- Koppakatepalli is a very small village with only 4 *Ryot* families not in the CSU. The government decided to build a compound wall for the school, but non CSU families objected on some false basis. The Block Education Officer, with the help of Police, stood there and built the compound wall. But the very same night, the *Ryots* got goons and demolished the compound wall, threatened all the CSU women, and looted a shop belonging to a CSU Member.

All 30 CSU Members rushed to our campus at Gudibanda. They were very agitated and wanted to thrash the *Ryots*. ADATS Staff advised them to take legal recourse and try for a permanent settlement whereby the power balance would get shifted in their favour. Taking revenge would merely satisfy their anger for the moment and aggravate the problem.

The next morning, accompanied by our Field Worker and their Cluster Secretary, all of them went to lodge a complaint with higher police authorities. The compound wall was once again rebuilt and criminal cases filed. The CSU is now strengthened, local power balance changed, and *Ryot* families have realised that their writ will no longer rule.

2. CUSTOMER DEMANDS & SATISFACTION (CD&S) SURVEYS ¹

2.1. Final Results of the Summer Agenda 2003

974 of the 1,662 listed demands could be satisfactorily met in the just completed February to July CD&S survey, giving an overall Result of 59%.

CD&S Survey – Summer Agenda 2003

Qty	Action Item	No Action	Under Action	CSU Reject	Govt Reject	Failed	Success	
198	Agriculture	76	81	1	1		39	20%
53	Child Care	14	7				32	60%
124	Business Opportunities	8	15			2	99	88%
101	Justice	17	144	1			69	68%
110	Old Age	12	19		6		73	66%
137	Health	84	20				133	56%
165	Women in Families	37	20				108	65%
661	Civic Benefits	116	122	5	1	2	415	63%
13	Safety Net	6	1				6	46%
1,662		370	299	7	8	4	974	59%

Field Staff and village functionaries were reluctant to admit outright failure. 299 demands – most in the categories of Agriculture, Justice and Civic Benefits – were shown as “Under Action” even at the time of closing this Agenda in July 2003. They wanted to carry over these unaccomplished line items into the next Agenda.

¹ Previously referred to as “Baseline Making/Implementation”

ADATS suggested that they critically discuss the reasons why they failed to get Results, even if they chose the euphemism of “Under Action”. August 2003 saw village CSUs and Cluster Meets analyse their Summer Agenda '03 performance.

- The non-formation of Land Tribunals in Gudibanda, and their non-functioning in Mittemari was identified as the main reason why Member Coolies could not get Temporary Title Deeds (*Darkasth*). Far more pressure had to be put upon elected officials and bureaucrats to set up and make these government Tribunals function.
- There were many procedural delays in getting cases out of Courts of Law even after CSU Meetings arrived at compromises with feuding parties.

2.2. “Baseline” to Customer Demands & Satisfaction (CD&S)

The most startling revelation of this grassroots reflection was something quite unexpected.

- Some Cluster functionaries and even a few Field Workers, not necessarily from SCNZ supported villages alone, viewed line items in the hitherto “Baseline Surveys” as a list of good deeds to do.

If they identified, for example, 3 orphan children who needed care, this did not mean that there were no more abandoned orphan in their Cluster villages. It was simply a small gesture of their personal goodwill towards deserted waifs and strays.

Member Coolies in the villages were not happy with this attitude, but unable to put their finger on the problem.

ADATS brought down the weight of the organisation to condemn this deplorable attitude. Small and poor peasant families were not our “target group” we declared. They were Customers who should be given our total and undivided attention. The poor were not our “beneficiaries” we thundered. They were Customers whose every demand should be individually addressed.

Member families paid far more than an annual Sangha Tax to perfunctorily renew membership. They earned their right to be treated as Customers through the loyalty and trust they placed on the organisation. They trusted us completely to abandon long established survival strategies and burn bridges with the *Ryots*. They gave us an ungrudging license to interfere with their most private caste practices and family relations, a rare privilege that few social workers enjoyed.

Anyone who wanted to do “a spot of social work” and gain indulgences were free to quit the organisation and seek self-actualisation and self-aggrandisement elsewhere. Henceforth the Coolie caste-class in general, and tax paying Member Coolie families in particular, would be treated as our most valuable commodity – Customers.

This is when we changed the hitherto “Baselines” to “Customer Demands & Satisfaction” – a far bigger amendment than mere nomenclature.

2.3. CD&S surveys – Monsoon Agenda '03

The whole of September 2003 was spent in making village level CD&S surveys to finalise the Monsoon Agenda 2003. There was a new mood of confident faith and proud participation in this exercise which was being carried out for the 5th successive time in the past 3 years.

A total of 1,720 Demands (*up 58 from the previous Summer Agenda '03*) were identified under 9 broad Categories, each being a conversion of day-to-day Life Activities into Development Processes.

Customer Demands in the Monsoon Agenda '03

CATEGORY <i>(Life Process Description)</i>	CUSTOMER DEMANDS	QTY
CULTIVATION <i>(Poor Crops & Barren Lands to Good Crops & Food Security)</i>	Get 31 Land Title Deeds; Get 40 Temporary Title Deeds from government; Follow up on 5 Title Deed applications; Develop 2 kitchen gardens; Send 2 youth for Agriculture Training	80
CHILD REARING <i>(Neglected Childhood & Perfunctory Schooling to Cared for Childhood)</i>	Admit 4 Youth in College/Diploma courses; Collect Food Grains for 3 Children who are going hungry to School; Arrange jobs for 8 youth; Buy 15 plots for <i>Balakendras</i> ; Care for 2 blind children; Care for 5 orphans; Apply for 1 Child Disability Pension; Change 3 bus timings/routes; Solve 4 <i>Anganwadi</i> problems; Arrange Skill Training for 62 youth; Send 14 Youth for Computer Training; Solve 1 Government Teacher problem; Repair/electrify 1 <i>Balakendra</i> building	123
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES <i>(Precarious single income sources to Diversified Incomes from many activities)</i>	Start 19 new cattle trade businesses with own funds (i.e. not CCF Loans); Start 1 new <i>Chandrinka</i> business with own funds; Start 10 new Petty Shops with own funds; Start 13 new Petty Trade businesses with own funds; Start 1 new Poultry with own funds; Start 6 Cattle Rearing efforts with own funds; Give CCF to expand 1 existing Petty Shop; Give CCFs to Expand 4 existing Petty Trades; Apply for 17 bank loans; Clear CCF Overdue in 13 villages	85
JUSTICE <i>(Blatant discrimination to Citizen Rights)</i>	Solve 4 house disputes within families; Solve 11 house site disputes; Solve 11 land disputes with outsiders; Solve 6 land disputes within families; Solve 1 case outside Court; Give 2 Legal Aid for civil cases; Give 10 Legal Aids for criminal cases	45
OLD AGE <i>(Neglected & Discarded to Respect & Care)</i>	Apply for 4 Senior Citizen Bus Passes; Make 50 new Old Age Pension applications; Follow up on 4 previous Old Age Pension applications; Give 38 persons extra benefits from Sangha Funds	98
HEALTH	Arrange 1 Children's Health Camp; Send 2 women for Family Planning operations; Send 95 for eye operations; Send 78 men to specialised hospitals; Send 42 women to specialised hospitals; Send 14 Children to specialised hospitals; Send 60 women for cancer check-up	292
WOMEN IN FAMILIES <i>(Lack of Identity, Dignity & Status to Decision Making Authority)</i>	Apply for 7 Widow Pensions; Follow up on 3 Widow Pension applications; Build 162 bathrooms; Counsel 6 husband-wife problems; Stop 3 cases of domestic violence; Conduct 1 simple marriage; Register 2 properties in wives' Names; Get 3 women share in husbands' Properties; Get 1 woman share in <i>Puttina Illu</i> Property; Solve 9 <i>Vokkaku Sanchi Duddu</i> problems	197
CIVIC BENEFITS <i>(Benefits through influence, middlemen and bribes to a Rights Based approach)</i>	Apply for 120 free Electrifications; Apply for 80 Ration Cards; Make 102 new House applications; Make 3 new House Site applications; Follow up on 67 House Application/Pending Bills; Electrify 3 Houses with own funds; Follow up on 28 Electrification applications; Clean 8 Drains, Wells, etc. with own efforts; Repair 28 Houses with government funds; Repair 6 Houses with own funds; Follow up on 3 Milk Society applications; Start 1 new Milk Collection Society; Follow up on 49 Ration Card applications; Apply for 20 Roads & Drains; Get 9 special government schemes; Apply for street lights in 5 villages; Follow up on 4 street light applications; Acquire 21 plots for house sites (collective issue); Apply for water facilities in 20 villages; Follow up on 2 water facility applications; Repair 3 water facilities with own efforts	582
SAFETY NET	Give Safety Net to 216 persons from Sangha Funds; Get 2 pending Insurance Claims	218
TOTAL DEMANDS		1,720

Village CSUs started off by making their demands Realistic and Time-bound in order to achieve a higher rate of success than last time. Yet the same type of Temporary Title Deed demands crept in, simply because these were genuine and pressing requirements. They realised that they would once again fail to get Results unless they were prepared to tackle the root cause of the problem – government lethargy and official corruption.

2.4. Corruption Survey

The October Gudibanda Taluk Coolie Sangha (GCS) Meeting, which finally adopted the Monsoon Agenda 2003, decided to strike against government ineptitude and apathy. They fixed a date when thousands would gather at the Taluk headquarters and *gherao* government offices and elected representatives.

The Bagepalli Coolie Sangha (BCS) flatly turned down their request for permission. BCS functionaries insisted that unless they could gather concrete proof of corruption and malpractice, a general strike would turn out to be a wishy-washy affair wherein Coolie Sangha functionaries would “show their mobilisation capacity” and Member Coolies would “vent their anger”, but achieve little else. The GCS was advised to gather a minimum of 25 concrete instances of drought relief funds being misused and anti-poverty scheme applicants being refused for not paying a bribe.

From this was born a huge grassroots campaign to systematically document corruption and malpractice. Within days, the remaining 4 Taluks decided to undertake similar surveys. Since the effort is only a fortnight old at the time of writing this Progress Report, we will not now elaborate.

2.5. Overall Performance ²

CD&S Performance in SCNZ supported villages stands at 32% which is lower than the overall 38% for other taluks. Once again this is because while Mittermari has a performance of 36%, Gudibanda is much lower at 27%. The chief reasons for this appreciable lag are:

- Inadequate Staff and functionary capacity to deal with issues/demands.
- Relatively newer CSUs’ inability to convert socio-political strength into functional unity and claim a commanding position in the local power equation.

CD&S Performance in SCNZ supported villages (31 October 2003)

Excellent	11 village CSUs	16%
Very Good	24 village CSUs	16%
Good	34 village CSUs	28%
Not Good	61 village CSUs	40%

3. CHILDREN’S PROGRAMME

3.1. The Numbers

- 4,414 children (*down 602 from 31 March 2003 because of school-finished youth*) are supported by the ADATS/SCNZ programme.
- 88% of school age children (*up 6% from 31 March 2003*) from Member Coolie families in the functioning CSUs are in school.

² Performance figures are not the same as Results or success-rate. As explained in an earlier Progress Report, the computer uses very complicated algorithms to calculate Performance

Gender Analysis of Children in School in SCNZ supported villages (31 October 2003)

	Total Children		Boys	Girls	SC/ST	Middle	Upper
Primary School (I to V)	1,964	44%	51%	49%	54%	17%	29%
Middle School (VI to VII)	932	21%	53%	47%	52%	17%	32%
High School (VIII to X)	1,168	26%	54%	46%	51%	15%	34%
PUC	283	6%	67%	33%	47%	12%	41%
Degree	35	1%	69%	31%	34%	6%	60%
Diploma/Other	1	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%
NFE	29	1%	52%	48%	62%	3%	34%
Total	4,414		54%	46%	52%	16%	32%

3.2. Coaching Classes

Bearing in mind the problems created by school Teachers and Block Education Officers, we started our coaching classes only after the preparatory exams were completed at their respective government schools.

Children appearing for their VII Std. exams were coached by us for 50 days, and those appearing for X Std. board exams for only 35 days. We would have liked to coach X Std. children a little longer, but there was no time.

Since we have already achieved a decent pass percentage, decreased dropout rate and increased number of children in each Std., *Balakendra* Teachers were asked to identify only those children who needed extra attention and send them for coaching classes. 96 children from the X Std. and 170 from the VII Std. attended our annual coaching classes. As usual, 8 Temporary Teachers were appointed. They patiently taught the children and took up extra classes at night for those who needed more help. Every evening, a test was held on a selected subject, and a mock preparatory exam was held at the end of the coaching.

3.3. Results of 7th Std and 10th Std. Board Exams

Of 469 who children appeared for their VII Std. board exams, only 15 failed. Some among them were ones did not write a paper or two because they fell ill and missed the papers. We have achieved a pass rate of 97% for 2002-03.

247 children took up their X Std. exams and 80 failed. We have achieved our lowest ever pass rate in 6 years. Though it is wrong to console ourselves with excuses and comparisons, it may still be pertinent to look at the figures. We achieved a pass rate of 68%, while Kolar district got 41%, with Gudibanda Taluk at 47%.

Boys and girls have an identical pass rate of 97% in VII Std. But in the X Std., while 69% of boys passed, only 64% of girls could clear their board exams. 10 of 15 children have been re-enrolled in the VII Std. 5 dropped out of school. 76 children who failed have re-enrolled themselves to repeat their X Std. The remaining 4 have dropped out.

Most children failed in math and science. The pattern of science question paper (not content) changed without prior notice. Children who had prepared themselves only from an exam point of view, without proper grounding in the subject itself, floundered. There was a reason for this also. 4 of the 9 government High Schools that our children attend had no Science and Math teachers. Temporarily recruited Teachers were arbitrarily removed by the government in the middle of school year and no replacements were made. Headmasters had a tough time to finish the portions.

3.4. Sports & Life-skill Camps

3.4.1. SUMMER CAMP

A Summer Camp was held from 1-20 April for Coolie youth. Of the 180 who enrolled, only 148 (86 girls and 62 boys) completed. The purpose of this Camp was to build a sense of belonging among participants and boost their self confidence. The approach was games, competitions, exercises, physical fitness activities, and experiential learning through games and interaction within the group as well as with outsiders. This was the very first time for us as well as the participants at this kind of learning. To conduct and coordinate the entire camp, an experienced Camp Manager from Bangalore, along with his team, was brought in.

Participants were divided into 13 groups, each with a Captain and Vice Captains. Morale was boosted through inter-group competitions. Points were awarded for winning and good manners and points taken away for losses and bad behaviour.

Physical fitness and sports events were held every morning and evening. Professional Sports coaches from Bangalore trained them in netball, throw ball and volley ball. 2 of our own children volunteered to coach in *kabbadi* and *kho-kho*.

Participants were taken to Bangalore on an exposure trip. They visited the stadium, museums, planetarium, fitness clubs, music shops, cafes, shopping avenues and the musical fountain park. Everyone was awed by the “outside” world and challenges these posed. They came back with a determination to do their best. They were encouraged to discuss and debate on everyday life situations:

- “I don’t belong and it’s not fair”
- “I feel scared and helpless”
- “I’m really trying; but it’s still not happening”
- “No one even notices me!”
- “I don’t make any difference”
- “I just want to have fun!”

At the end of the camp, during an interactive evaluation, we found a robust and more confident group. Girls said, “*we are no different from boys; we can do whatever they can*”. Camp learning that they highlighted include:

- Take ideas from everyone and work as a team.
- Stay together in order to achieve anything.
- Think and plan before acting.
- We need each other!
- Tackle issues through games and plays.
- Of course, we want many more of these kind of get-togethers

3.4.2. NETBALL

The Bangalore Netball Association held a selection process in April 2003 to put together a boys and girls State team for the National Level. Many teams from all over Karnataka State participated. After an exhaustive selection process, 3 of our Coolie children – Vimala, Murali and Narasimhamurthy, all X Std programme children, were selected to play for the State at the National Games in Chandigarh, Punjab. Proud CSUs and *Balakendras* were thrilled. They made sure that every need of these 3 children was met. This time around, even government school authorities cooperated. The thought that their children were selected to play for the National Level, which is no mean achievement, and that they would go a place that they had

never even dreamt of was quite difficult to believe. We shared in this shameless display of euphoria. The children were sent to a coaching camp in Bangalore, 15 days prior to the event.

- Karnataka Boys Team did very well with impressive wins over other States in preliminary games. They lost to Delhi 5-10 in the quarter finals.
- Karnataka Girls Team fared even better than the boys. They made it to the semi finals where they lost to Andhra Pradesh 16-18. They got the All India 3rd place.

Our golden girl came back with a Bronze medal and all 3 with Certificates of Merit.

3.5. Balakendra Teachers

3.5.1. SCNZ VILLAGES

During our annual *Balakendra* Teachers' assessment exercise in April 2003, we observed that some teachers were making mistakes while writing down the lessons, drawing pictures or making models. As a result they were not effectively making use of the training sessions back in the *Balakendras*. This prompted us to simplify the training contents and methodology. We put together math, science, social science and environment with a lot of project work, field visits and assignments for older children and activities like join-the-dots, puzzles, quiz, drawing and making toys/fancy stuff with waste paper and cardboard for younger children.

We came up with a *Balakendra* Teacher's Guide. The Guide was printed and each *Balakendra* Teacher was given a booklet along with a *Balakendra* Teacher's kit – a bag containing a long book, set of sketch pens, pair of scissors, pencil and eraser. 3 *Balakendra* Teachers, trained in activity based learning, were appointed as temporary Teacher Trainers to help our full-time Teacher Trainer. Reference books were bought and supplied to each *Balakendra*.

During their training, *Balakendra* Teachers now make models, charts, drawing or whatever is necessary for them to thoroughly learn the topic. They are made to use reference books to do their assignments and project work. Each topic in the syllabus has either a dance or a song, making learning a pleasure. In addition *Balakendra* Teachers are asked to make their own creative learning materials from the shown examples.

Balakendra Teachers are graded every month after their training. 20-25% of them need to improve skills. In each training session, depending upon the syllabus, *Balakendra* Teachers are given journal papers for children to make their assignments and project work. Each child has to maintain her own file containing her work. This has also made monitoring easier for our Case Workers. Along with this, each *Balakendra* Teacher maintains her daily schedule in a diary.

These past 6 months *Balakendra* Teachers have in fact complained that the training time is not enough to complete the monthly syllabus. Their participation during the training sessions has increased with creative inputs to improve the syllabus and/or methodology. Children are glad to have their own files which they show off to classmates at school and also us when we visit.

3.5.2. NON-SCNZ VILLAGES

Children in Middle and High School classes are given scholarship benefits from their respective Sangha Funds. This time round, the Coolie Sangha decided to streamline the operation with authentic data. They wanted to remove children of distant relatives and not-in-village children whose names had been included in the database by influential CSU Members merely in order to grab benefits. *Balakendras* Teachers did a Herculean job in collecting marks cards, updating the database and filtering out these non students. While they did not get to be too popular with everyone, they did earn an organisational credibility and respect in the proc-

ess. A visible impact of appointing young educated girls as *Balakendra* Teachers is the emergence of a brand new cadre in the Coolie Sangha.

There are a total of 305 *Balakendra* Teachers in non-SCNZ villages, 80% of whom attend training every month. Of them, only 5 from Chintamani are new. The remaining have been around for the best part of a year. About 90% of those who regularly attend the training sessions are effective in conducting classes and maintaining individual project work files for children.

They use the same Teacher's Guide and methodology as in SCNZ villages. They too are provided with Teacher's kits to enable them to effectively participate in training sessions. *Balakendra* Teachers are taught to make uncomplicated teaching aids and charts. The lack of library books, teaching aids and sports materials is felt, but has not diminished their enthusiasm. In fact, they have become quite creative, and share ingenuity during the training sessions. Simple indoor and outdoor games are taught without the use of expensive sports material or gadgets.

Mahila Trainers, who double as Case Workers in these areas, attend monthly training sessions with their respective *Balakendra* Teachers. They are doing a commendable job in supporting the *Balakendra* Teachers, checking performance and reporting in the Mahila Meetings. It is almost a year since many *Balakendras* started and Teacher turnover has been minimal, in spite of subtle attempts at male interference.

3.6. Non Formal Education (NFE) Classes

29 children (15 boys and 14 girls) are in the final semester of their NFE Classes. There have been no need to enrol any new children during this academic year. Unless new village CSUs with a not-in-school problem are taken up, or dropped out CSUs come back, NFE will come to a standstill from next year. We are proud to state that this is because the retention rate of children, specially the girl child, has increased and school dropout has become almost zero.

	2 nd Semester	3 rd Semester
Boys	-	15
Girls	-	14
Total	-	29

3.7. Skill Training & Job Placement

School finished youth in the 18-20 age group wanted to learn skills and get jobs. Parents too were of the view that their children should find jobs and earn a regular income, rather than stagnate in the rural economy. Multipurpose Training Institute is an NGO based in Bangalore, working with single women. We explained our need and they agreed to impart skills in garment making and place trained youth in factory jobs.

Rs 1,500 was fixed as training fee, board and lodge for a month long in-house training. After a lot of CSU level discussions, parents were asked to contribute Rs 500 while ADATS would find the remaining Rs 1,000 per trainee from non-SCNZ sources³. We sent the 1st batch of 25 youth from Siddalaghatta taluk in June 2003.

Thus far 121 youth from the different taluks have been trained in skills needed by the garment industry in Bangalore. Except for 24 youth who either did not fare well in the inter-

³ Action für den Coolie Sangha, a small community support group that we set up in Switzerland, has been mobilising resources for this purpose.

views or have attained low grades in the training, the rest have all been placed in factory jobs in and around Bangalore. 2 of them have bought sewing machines and started tailoring shops in their villages. Field Workers help the job placed youth find accommodation and with settling down problems for the first month, till they get their salaries.

ADATS considers this effort a success only if the employed youth retain their jobs for more than 3 months. 71 Trainees from the first 3 batches have settled well with salaries of between Rs 2,500 to Rs 3,000 per month. 8 girls and 4 boys from Gudibanda have been trained. Of them, 4 girls have found jobs.

3.8. Computer Training

A new activity has been started from May 2003 to familiarise Coolie children with computer usage. The ADATS Training Centre was refurbishing to set up a sophisticated Computer Training facility. Buildings were repaired, generator room built and a second-hand diesel genset installed, re-electrification done, telephone line obtained, network cabling installed, special furniture designed and fabricated, etc.

After much research and on the advice of IT professionals, we opted for a Server/Thin Client environment. A state-of-the-art IBM® file and print Server was bought to support 20 VXL® Thin Clients. A Microsoft® partner installed a free copy of Windows.Net® (subsequently upgraded to Windows Server 2003® o/s with 20 Client Access Licenses) and a terminal server installation of MS Office XP®. In this way we were able to simulate a PC-identical environment for children to learn contemporary skills. 2 residential IT Instructors were appointed and our Network Administrator offered to take personal interest till they settled in.

Young girls and boys who have finished their schooling are invited to attend a month long in-house course where they will be exposed to the computer environment, Kannada and English word processing, calculating on a spread sheet, data management on the ADATS/Coolie Sangha Intranet, email usage, website surfing, etc.

A total of 182 children attended 5 month-long batches. Of them, 163 (68 boys and 95 girls) successfully completed the course. *Balakendra* Teachers, many of whom have been schooled through our Children's Programme, are especially encouraged to attend. This is the reason why there are more girls than boys.

Batch	Start Date	End Date	Taluk/Area	Attended	Course Completed		Total Trained	
					Boys	Girls		
1 st	01 May 03	30 May 03	Gudibanda	38	12	24	36	95%
2 nd	05 Jun 03	18 Jul 03	Chintamani	33	16	16	32	97%
3 rd	21 Jul 03	20 Aug 03	Bagepalli	37	16	20	36	97%
4 th	27 Aug 03	28 Sep 03	Gudibanda & Mittemari	39	13	18	31	79%
5 th	06 Oct 03	06 Nov 03	Chintamani	35	11	17	28	80%
TOTAL				182	68	95	163	90%

The biggest problem we face is that the children have never used any electrical or electronic gadget. Not a single child has ever before sat in front of a typewriter. Clare Dorking, a dear friend and supporter from Rotary Dunedin South, New Zealand, decided that this was not on in this day and age! She appealed to Rotary Clubs around us to "Lend a Hand" to contribute old typewriters and disused keyboards. If these are bombarded in the village *Balakendras*, children could literally play with them and practice typing their "qwerty". A. Prakash, C.N.

Kumar and many others from Rotary Bangalore Southwest took up the challenge and are ready to give 200 old keyboards that they have collected!

Another problem is that children have a very poor grasp of English. We still have to apply our minds to the problem, but are confident of getting there.

In spite of these, even the very first batch was productive, with a high level of learning/absorbing. Overall results are 90% and this is no mean achievement. Teaching methodology, course content and time management has improved with each subsequent batch. The very last batch was able to put in 13-14 hours of theory and lab work every single day!

Computer learning is excitingly mixed with a Summer Camp atmosphere where girls are encouraged to play cricket, boys to wash clothes, tidy dorms and sweep the campus, together to sing and dance around bonfires, tend to the garden, and everyone to learn table manners! The emphasis is on establishing a gender-free socialisation where children relate to each other without sexist and caste inhibitions.

- The July-August batch from Bagepalli had young people who were strong on politics. They succeeded in indoctrinating our newly recruited IT Instructors on the principles and ideology of a caste-free and woman-friendly Coolie Sangha!

2 persons who are totally smitten by the month-long sessions need special mention.

- A longstanding ADATS associate, the government Doctor who conducts our annual health check-ups for thousands of children, is so enamoured that he makes it a point to visit the Training Centre for an hour every evening. His contribution is really valuable. Besides treating small ailments, he also advises on various adolescence problems that young boys and girls tend to have the world over.
- Helper/Cook Shivamma continues to cook 3 full meals for batch after batch of 35-40 children and Instructors with so much cheer that she has affectionately been nicknamed “Mummy”.

Watching her closely, one is not sure whether it is the actual cooking or *“teaching sound table manners that will hold these children in good stead when they go to the city”* that thrills her more...

ADATS is careful to communicate that this is not a job-oriented Skills Training programme. So much so that we do not even issue certificates at the end of the training. Children who attend our month long session are encouraged to join up with accredited training institutes in their respective taluks and get a formal qualification. Each and every village, in all 5 taluks, know fully well that familiarisation with computers is a life-skill that young people cannot do without. Yet there is an insatiable demand for the new activity and we are booked 2 years in advance!

It has been a memorable experience for each batch of 31-36 children. The last days are inevitably emotional. As Debbie Petlueng from SCNZ remarked, this could well be the seed for a more structured and meaningful ADATS/Coolie Sangha involvement with Coolie youth.

4. STUDIES & EVALUATION

4.1. Anita Ravishankar Evaluation

The 2nd evaluation of the Gudibanda-Mittemari Community Sponsorship scheme was undertaken by Dr. Anita Ravishankar in July and August 2003. Though the total scheme was examined, the focus remained on Coolie children and youth.

The evaluation was extremely positive with regard to performance and impact, and concluded with 4 recommendations at the policy level and 8 at the programme level. After a very good session on 2 August, ADATS Staff took ownership for all 12 recommendations. More than

half the programme recommendations are already being acted upon, and we are working on others like life skill training for girl children, monitoring system for *Balakendra* Teachers, etc.

Months after the event, the detailed evaluation report is even now being shared with secondary stakeholders in all 500 programme villages (*i.e. not just the 130 SCNZ supported ones*) through special CSU Meetings. Feedback is monitored in our weekly Situation Meetings and conceptual clarification provided to Field Staff. Existing child rearing and child socialisation practices are being unsparingly examined in each and every village. These discussions will, over time, lead to the articulation of a responsible and holistic Coolie Sangha Children's Policy.

This is one of the better studies carried out in recent years. Dr. Ravishankar quickly understood that our Staff and functionaries, active stakeholders in the programme, needed a theoretical framework within which to place their work with children. She did not stop with field investigations and a to-the-point report that merely answered questions raised in the ToR. Instead she took great pains to share her reading of the overall situation and present deep reflections and complicated ideas through clear and pertinent essays. Drafting and redrafting the Report took 3 long weeks.

Concepts like child rearing practices, child socialisation, academic environment, primary and secondary groups, gender-specific and ascribed roles, caste proscription, child in family, individuality, social capital, dominant and non-dominant cultural capital, oppositional culture, child focus, parenting technology, life skill education, *et al* were not altogether alien to some among us. But they did tend to float about as isolated lofty ideas. They needed to be contextualised. Anita Ravishankar threaded them all together within the background of our own experience and converted these into an applicable theory. In this way she has made a valuable and lasting contribution to ADATS and the Coolie Sangha.

Please download the full report at <http://www.adats.com/studies/studies/books/0821>

4.2. Murray Culshaw Study

In early 2003 ADATS initiated a Strategic Planning exercise to review the self-financed and own-efforts of the Coolie Sangha to school their children in nearly 500 non-SCNZ supported villages. Through this exercise we wanted to assess what more needed to be done to bring about a greater Child Focus. By mid year we realised the need for an outside opinion and invited Murray Culshaw Advisory Service (mcas) to give us a "business advice" to further this strategic planning exercise.

Murray Culshaw and Priya Anand assessed the potential and capability of the Coolie Sangha's own efforts and gave recommendations on how these self efforts can be optimised and sustained to enhance the existing children's programme and provide new directions to increase its efficiency.

The study made a very positive finding on the CSU run Children's Programme:

"Most people would give an arm and a leg to achieve what ADATS and the Sangha have achieved in the last two decades. Now its a question of deciding where to go from here."

and concluded with a blunt presentation of the challenge posed and potential for improvement:

"The transition from a student to being a productive individual in the community is not easy and enabling this is a challenge to any organisation in the field of education. ADATS and the Sangha framework provides a fascinating opportunity to examine the 'transition' phase with fresh energy and insights. Even partial success in this venture would add real value and meaning to the future of the coolie community. Such an ini-

tiative is therefore well worth supporting as it would add substantial value to the lives of Coolie children and the Coolie Sangha. The experience could be of real value to the wider development community faced with this 'transition' in so many societies."

mcas made 13 concrete recommendations to the Coolie Sangha under 3 broad categories of enhancing the schooling and education programme, introducing a Post Schooling Programme, and enhancing the effectiveness and relevancy of the Sangha.

In the final part of the report, as well as in discussions with John Bowis and Debbie Petlueng of SCNZ, Murray Culshaw has discussed the fit between the Coolie Sangha's own-efforts with children's education and SCNZ strategy/VASS criteria.

This study, as also Anita Ravishankar's evaluation of the Gudibanda-Mittemari community sponsorship scheme, has forced ADATS and the Coolie Sangha to reflect on the problems of Coolie Youth – a segment of our target population that we have hitherto given scant attention to.

Please download the full report at <http://www.adats.com/studies/studies/books/0822>

5. HEALTH

5.1. Decentralised Health Budget

A total of Rs 145,000 was given out to the Gudibanda Mahila Meetings. No grants were given to Mittemari area during this reporting period.

Mahila Meetings use of these monies with customary care and caution. No health bill is passed without proper bills and receipts. Decentralised health grants are also used to pay the VHW stipend and buy monthly first aid medicine packets for each Mahila Meeting.

5.2. Annual Health Check-up for Children

The 3 month long annual Health Check-up for children began in August 2003. Ignoring minor deficiencies at early stages leads to major problems which the government Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are not equipped to handle. Preventive care can only begin when mothers are trained to manage these minor ailments in the initial stages. We have noticed that periodical health check-up to detect early manifestations of skin disorders, visual impairment and dental problems brings about a remarkable change in children's health. Vitamin A, Iron supplement and de-worming go a long way to prevent diseases.

6 years back when we started the annual health check-up programme, Epilepsy was a major problem with afflicted 143 children. Today, 13 have been completely cured, 46 are in their 2nd year of treatment, and 84 in their last term of medication. During this year's check-up only 6 new cases of epilepsy surfaced. VHWs and *Balakendra* Teachers make sure that ailing children take their medication on time and replenish the stock as soon as they get over. Government hospitals provide medicines for epilepsy free of cost.

The other main complaints during this year's check-up was 159 children with cavities and rotting teeth, and 54 children with ear infection.

All our Case Workers and Mahila Trainers have been given a crash course by a local Ophthalmologist to check for eye problems using the standard Eye Chart. 64 children with visual impairment, headache, night blindness and watering eyes were detected.

5.3. Health Camps

5.3.1. CULTURAL CHANGE

Coolie women have finally taken a firm stand on their health, be it reproductive or other ailment. Apart from stating their health demands in CD&S surveys, they have gone a step forward. With the help of Mahila Trainers, they have started visiting government hospitals for general health check-up and treatment.

Anyone with experience in community health in India will realise that this is a huge break through. As a result, the nature of Health Camps has changed over the past 16 years, and the impact of this new culture just as easily seeps into the newer villages of Gudibanda Taluk, as to villages with no CSUs. So much so that camps are now held as a follow-up of therapy.

5.3.2. CERVICAL CANCER DETECTION

Only 1 Cervical Cancer Detection Camp was held for 140 Coolie women in the Gudibanda campus in May 2003. 78 women and their respective sexual partners were given medication for minor infections. 5 women who were diagnosed with prolapsed uterus underwent surgery in a hospital at Chickballapur.

5.3.3. LAPAROSCOPY

Young Coolie women have become extremely aware of the problems related to early marriage and early/multiple children bearing. Most are opting for smaller families with 2 children and many for just 1 child, even if it is a girl.

For the past 1 year, the World Bank sponsored Family Planning Programme in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh has been promoting laparoscopy. Each woman who undergoes laparoscopy is given a compensation of Rs 500. The government doctor who helps with our annual health check-up has arranged for our women to avail this facility.

4 camps are held every month and 6-8 women are sent to each of these camps. Our women who undergo surgery are kept back overnight at our training centre for follow up treatment. Each woman is given a course of antibiotics, pain killers and vitamin C the next morning, and arrangements made to send them home. During this reporting period, 65 young Coolie women have undergone laparoscopy.⁴

5.3.4. EYE CAMPS

Village CSUs requested that Eye Camps be held for the aged. A government Ophthalmologist and his team attended to 65 senior citizens. 6 of them were operated for cataract and another 36 given spectacles, using funds from a government sponsored scheme. Free medication was given for minor afflictions.

6. SANGHA FUNDS

Sangha Fund balances in the SCNZ supported villages has now reached Rs 7.9 million (*up from Rs 7.3 million in 31 March 2003*) which is only a slight increase of Rs 598,966. This is because there has been no Sangha Tax collection since our last Progress Report and, moreover, the older village CSUs of Mittemari have been spending their Sangha Funds for various purposes.

⁴ Once again supported with Action für den Coolie Sangha funds

Sangha Funds in SCNZ supported villages (31 October 2003)

	31 March 2003		This Report		
Taluk Main Savings Bank Account	619,534	8%	687,075	9%	
Taluk Fixed Deposits	450,000	6%	450,000	6%	
Village Savings Bank Accounts	1,092,850	17%	1,846,091	23%	
Village Fixed Deposits	5,005,000	69%	7,305,200	62%	7,904,166

7. COOLIE CREDIT FUNDS (CCFs)**7.1. Status of the CCFs**

There was much CCF activity in 99 programme villages during the past 7 months with considerable improvement in performance. 1,662 loans amounting to Rs 3.14 million were given out in 92 village CCFs. 592 instalments worth Rs 1.23 million were repaid in 99 village CCFs. As a result, the amount of good loans has dramatically increased.

Status of the CCFs in SCNZ supported villages (31 October 2003)

Total CCF Capital		11,434,235	100%
Total of Good Loans		4,213,500	37%
Total of Overdue		1,706,942	15%
1 to 6 Months Late	194,019	11%	
7 to 12 Months Late	149,225	9%	
Over 1 Year Late	1,363,698	80%	
Bad Debts		600	0%
Bank Balances		5,512,994	48%

7.2. CCF Overdue

The overall Overdue position has not changed much, with the bulk of CCF Overdue in Mitemari, and Gudibanda contributing less than 11% to the problem. But the proportion of not-so-serious Overdue (*less than 6 months old*) and serious Overdue (*more than 1 year old*) has remained more or less constant. This shows that while there has been considerable repayment of loan instalments, fresh repayment rates are still being defaulted upon.

The reason for this is that while a campaign-type effort to clear older Overdues has been fairly successful, a fiscal discipline has not yet been internalised in individual Member families, with borrowers remembering their due dates and repaying on agreed dates. However, we do not wish to underestimate the grit and determination with which CCF Overdues have been cleared, that too in a drought year.

- CCF rules block an entire village from borrowing if it's total Overdue crosses Rs 10,000. Just before Crop Loans were released in June 2003, there was a mad scramble by each and every village to bring their CCF Overdues within that limit and make their Members eligible for fresh loans. Ramachandrappa, our Mitemari Field Worker, refused to budge, "*The Rule is meant to accommodate those few persons who may have genuine reasons for not repaying on time. I will not permit you to make a mockery of it by repaying just enough to become eligible. No Crop Loans will be released till all the deliberate default is cleared!*"

His villages revolted! But ADATS supported the Field Worker, stating that we could not fault his logic. CCF Performance in his 34 functioning villages drastically improved with a record repayment of Rs 0.2 million!

7.3. CCF Utilisation

Village bank balances have reduced in spite of an influx of CCF capital worth Rs 437,143. Once again, this is because of healthy lending/borrowing during the past 7 months. The big increase in borrowing has mainly been Rs 3.1 million worth of Crop Loans given out in the month of June.

CCF Utilisation Pattern in SCNZ supported villages (31 October 2003)

Purpose	Amount Borrowed			No of Loans		
	31 March 2003	This Report		31 March 2003	This Report	
Crop Loans	4,609,761	7,709,861	44%	3,360	4,993	66%
Agriculture	367,080	354,080	2%	121	118	2%
Cattle	3,331,325	3,294,925	19%	1,136	1,132	15%
Trade & Entrepreneurship	6,142,544	6,012,014	34%	1,209	1,220	16%
Consumption & others	85,415	97,715	1%	140	140	2%
Total	14,536,125	17,468,595	100%	5,966	7,603	100%

7.4. CCF Performance

Our computer software, which assesses the performance of each individual village CCF on a day-to-day and transaction-by-transaction basis, is very sensitive to changes in fiscal behaviour and makes ambitious performance demands.

Overall CCF performance is now rated at 35% (up from 25% in 31 March 2003) with a potential to rise to 38% (up from 27% in 31 March 2003).

CCF Performance in SCNZ supported villages (31 October 2003)

Excellent	21 village CCFs (13)	15% (11%)
Very Good	23 village CCFs (15)	16% (12%)
Good	68 village CCFs (41)	44% (34%)
Not Good	32 village CCFs (51)	22% (43%)

Even by conventional non-banking standards, a marked improvement in CCF Performance can be seen. However, the Average Borrowing figure has dropped slightly because of mass Crop Loans that were given out to 1,633 borrowers.

CCF Performance in SCNZ supported villages (31 October 2003)

CCF Capital		Rs 11,434,235
Cumulative loans given		Rs 17,468,595
Rotation of Capital		1.53 times
Number of Loans		7,603
Average Borrowing		Rs 2,297
Repayment Rate	{100 – (Overdue + Bad Debts / Cumulative Loans x 100)}	90.23%
Capital at Risk	{Overdue / Capital}	15%

7.5. Quality of the Loan Portfolio

As predicted 7 months back, there has been a dramatic reduction in the Exposed Portfolio Rate of functioning village CSUs, which now stands at 27% (down from 42% in 31 March 2003). Similarly the Delinquency Rate of functioning villages has also dropped to 23% (down from 38% in 31 March 2003). These can be directly attributed to a better functioning of the village CSUs with the repayment of outstanding overdue loans and also to the giving out of huge crop loans.

Recovery Rate in functioning villages has climbed up to a near ideal 89%, only 6 percentage points short of a coveted excellence.

	Functioning Villages	Cancelled Village	Overall
Exposed Portfolio Rate (outstanding balance of contaminated loans / total outstanding; ideal = 15%)	27% (42%)	69% (69%)	32% (47%)
Delinquency Rate (total overdue / total outstanding; ideal = 15%)	23% (38%)	69% (69%)	29% (43%)
Recovery Rate (repayments made to date / repayments that had to be made to date; ideal = 90%)	89% (88%)	70% (70%)	86% (86%)

(previous report figures in parenthesis)

8. DRY LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**8.1. DLDP Plan Utilisation**

Rs 3.71 million worth of DLDP Plans were given out to 101 SCNZ supported villages (32 in Gudibanda and 69 in Mitemari) to undertake 4 months of DLDP works from March 2003. 79% of the works were completed and 77% of the allotment was paid out as DLDP wages by the end of June 2003.

When added to the Rs 1.37 million worth of DLDP wages paid out in Oct-Dec 2002, the total wage investment made in Gudibanda and Mitemari stands at Rs 4,219,170.

Plan & Utilisation (March to June 2003)

Taluk	Villages	2003 DLDP Plans		Completed/Utilised			
		Works	Allotment	Works		Paid	
Gudibanda	32	829	952,710	548	66%	634,320	67%
Mitemari	69	1,966	2,759,355	1,652	84%	2,213,490	80%
	101	2,795	3,712,065	2,200	79%	2,847,810	77%

While 96% of Mittermari (69 of the 72 functioning village CSUs) participated in the DLDP, only 55% of Gudibanda (32 of the 58 functioning village CSUs) took their plans to implement Soil & Water Conservation (S&WC) works, in spite of a crippling 3 year drought. We do not pretend to know the reasons why.

8.2. DLDP Works Done

Far more works were carried out this year, with the building of new contour bunds once again topping the list. This was due to the fact that they worked for 4 months this year (as compared to just 3 months last year) and also because the systems and procedures of harnessing community labour are now in place in Gudibanda taluk.

S&WC Works Carried out (March to June 2003)

NUMBERS			DESCRIPTION OF WORK	QUANTITY		
Oct-Dec 2002	Mar-Jun 2003	TOTAL		Oct-Dec 2002	Mar-Jun 2003	TOTAL
9	36	45	Built Cattle Wall	780	2,285	3,065 m
52	269	321	Built Field Bunds	4,159	17,540	21,699 m
703	1,113	1,816	Built New Contour Bunds	57,937	86,811	144,748 m
51	111	162	Built Retention Wall (Kanji)	1,267	6,979	8,246 m
24	67	91	Checked Ravine & Gully	24	178	202
51	246	297	Cleared Shrubs & Boulders	124	468	592 ac
1	4	5	Deepened Open Well	1	4	5
133	110	243	Dug Diversion Channel	10,914	7,038	17,952 m
1	2	3	Dug Farm Pond	1	2	3
161	238	399	Strengthened Existing Bunds	13,856	17,595	31,451 m
	1	1	Built Path/Road		100	100 m
	3	3	Wasted Works		3	3 ac

8.3. Land Survey

The established practice in Coolie Sangha building is that as soon as a Coolie family joins the village CSU, all their landholdings⁵ are immediately surveyed and entered into the database. This data includes the extent in acres, title in whose name the land stands, source of irrigation, gradient, quality of contour bunds, number of years of S&WC works already carried out on the holding, and an estimate of the number of years of further work needed.

As and when DLDP works are implemented on particular holdings, the number of years of work done is increased by 1, and the number of years needed is reduced by 1. When the crops are on the fields and initial hassles over, the re-worked data is taken to the village where all the Members together visit each field to verify that the information is correct.

Following this established practice, the Gudibanda and Mittermari Cluster functionaries undertook a re-survey of landholdings in September and October 2003. We did suspect that initial land data collected 5-6 years back in Gudibanda taluk could be wrong with many families having neglected to give accurate details. But a comparison with the previous data, though not fully entered at the time of writing this Progress Report, shows more variance than we expected.

This year's land survey had an additional outcome. ADATS Field Staff and Coolie Sangha functionaries decided to visit ALL Coolie fields, including those of 1,726 Cancelled Members

⁵ A Member family owning 2.5 acres, for example, could well have 3 different holdings.

in 130 functioning village CSUs plus 426 Cancelled families in 16 dropped out CSUs. The purpose was to get an accurate account of exactly how much DLDP works were carried out over the past 16 years (*village CSUs in Mitemari hobli are fairly old*).

But visiting all the holdings of more than two thousand Cancelled Members acted as an olive branch. In 13 dropped out CSUs of Mitemari, our Field Workers spent more time in hurriedly convened village meetings than on the fields! It gave them an opportunity to discuss why they had left in the first place, and what their present situation was. Whether this will result in any appreciable come-back of prodigals will be known only in December/January.

8.3.1. PATTERN OF LAND HOLDING

The resurvey revealed that landlessness is less than initially estimated.

Pattern of Land Holding – 3,493 families; 12,627 acres.

PREVIOUS DATA		PATTERN OF LAND HOLDING	PRESENT DATA	
Acres	Percent		Acres	Percent
368	11%	Landless Members	282	8%
214	6%	0.1 to 1 acre	174	5%
740	21%	1.1 to 2 acres	727	21%
724	21%	2.1 to 3 acres	738	21%
532	15%	3.1 to 4 acres	536	15%
347	10%	4.1 to 5 acres	387	11%
568	16%	Over 5 acres	649	19%
3,493			3,493	

8.3.2. DLDP WORK DONE

Previous data had shown that we had done Rs 7.3 million worth of S&WC works on 7,131 acres of Coolie land (mainly in Mitemari).

But the corrected data now shows a much increased Rs 11.1 million worth of works on 11,803 acres.

Works Done in all Villages, on lands belonging to Normal & Cancelled Members

PREVIOUS DATA			WORK DONE	PRESENT DATA		
Acres	Percent	Value		Acres	Percent	Value
2,711	38%	1,219,950	1 year work done	5,007	44%	2,253,150
1,774	25%	1,596,600	2 years work done	2,448	22%	2,203,200
1,323	19%	1,786,050	3 years work done	1,834	16%	2,475,900
846	12%	1,522,800	4 years work done	1,265	11%	2,277,000
297	4%	668,250	5 years work done	484	4%	1,089,000
147	2%	396,900	6 years work done	198	2%	534,600
30	0%	94,500	7 years work done	62	1%	195,300
2	0%	7,200	8 years work done	18	0%	64,800
7,131		Rs 7,292,250		11,316		Rs 11,092,950

8.3.3. DLDP WORK NEEDED

- Previous data had shown that an additional Rs 10.98 million worth of S&WC works need to be done on 11,083 acres of Coolie land.
But the corrected data now shows Rs 15 million worth of works need be done.
This could be exaggerated since Gudibanda CSUs do not have sufficient experience to assess what they are capable of achieving each year.
- Previous data showed that 19% of Coolie lands were perfectly level and needed no further labour investment.
But the corrected data shows that only 6% of lands are on par with Ryot fields.
Once again, this could be due to fears that they will be excluded from benefits if they admit to Results!

Works needed in 130 functioning Villages on lands belonging to Normal Members only

PREVIOUS DATA			WORK NEEDED	PRESENT DATA		
Acres	Percent	Value		Acres	Percent	Value
2,071	19%		No work Needed	682	6%	
1,558	14%	701,100	1 year work Needed	1,073	9%	482,850
2,174	20%	1,956,600	2 years work Needed	2,766	23%	2,489,400
3,416	31%	4,611,600	3 years work Needed	3,508	30%	4,735,800
1,066	10%	1,918,800	4 years work Needed	2,640	22%	4,752,000
798	7%	1,795,500	5 years work Needed	1,136	10%	2,556,000
11,083		Rs 10,983,600		11,803		Rs 15,016,050

8.4. Participatory Evaluation

In September 2003, a participatory evaluation was carried out on the Chintamani DLDP. Ajit Mani of Interventions (India) Pvt. Ltd. facilitated this study whereby Coolie Sangha Representatives and Field Staff themselves made a Problem Tree, Objective Tree and a retrospective Log Frame to communicate the project logic of the DLDP in their taluk. They identified Goal Indicators, Purpose Indicators, and Outcome Indicators with suggestions to improve Means of Verification.

The study found our Activity Process monitoring to be excellent, but suggested that much more had to be done with regard to Effects Monitoring. To begin with, we need to organize our data in a time-line manner – i.e. our database is designed to capture data on a continual basis and keep it up-to-date “as of today” but not, for example, to reflect how the situation was 1 year back or 2 years back, etc. As a result it was not possible to quantitatively assess Yield (*Income indicator*) and Acreage (*Wealth indicator*) increases.

Their understanding of the DLDP as an important instrument in the empowerment of the Coolie caste-class is very impressive. Linkages to other Coolie Sangha building efforts are clearly elucidated.

Please download the full report at www.adats.com/studies/0824.pdf

Though this study covered a much older area where the DLDP has been implemented for a considerably longer period, many observations and learning are relevant for Gudibanda and Mitemmari.