"Committed to Building a Poverty Free Environment that offers Dignity, Hope and Choice to the underprivileged."
Vision

Hand in Hand’s vision is to eradicate child labour and household poverty amongst the underprivileged with focus on education, employment, income generation and empowerment.

Mission

- Eradicating child and bonded labour by promoting education.
- Empowering women through capacity building and creating micro enterprises
- Strengthening grass root democracy by setting up Citizen’s Centres.
- Promoting health, hygiene and clean environment through awareness generation, medical camps, watershed and waste management projects.
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FROM THE MANAGEMENT

2005-06 has been a glorious year at Hand in Hand Tamilnadu. As a NGO based at Kancheepuram, we have had significant successes in our poverty reduction programmes for the poor communities in the District through an effective and integrated approach focusing on education, health, women's empowerment and strengthening democracy at grassroots.

In our efforts, we have benefitted enormously from the guidance and advice of Dr. Percy Barnevik, International business leader. His inspiring leadership and commitment to the cause of poverty alleviation at a global level through creation of jobs has played a pivotal role in the remarkable transformation at Hand in Hand during the year. It has helped us sharpen our strategic interventions and achieve desired results.

Together with our donors and volunteers, we are reaching out to promote an equitable society to enable the poor and the voiceless to realize their full potential and promote global harmony by focusing on children, women and youth. We will continue to invest in our key strengths and scale up our projects by adopting a pragmatic and need based approach.

SEED Trust, our sister concern, is an independent Trust with headquarters at Thiruvananthapuram. With a vision and mission similar to HiH, it focuses on Integrated Community Development. During the last financial year, some of the ongoing projects were funded through the SEED Trust. 50% of the trustees are common to both the Trusts.

During 2005-06, Hand in Hand Tamilnadu and SEED Trust spent $411261 to support programs around the world directly designed to advance our mission and vision. In addition we have provided assistance to the tune of 20 million ($400000) Indian Rupees through linkages with banks for enterprise creation. We have also received donations to increase our on-lending capacity and to build up our equity capital substantially. We are grateful to all our donors, public and private, who share our vision and concern by supporting our cause.

Our staff is committed to the organisation's vision. This will continue to be a source of great strength. Additionally, we are seeking financial support from both individuals and organisations, as a good idea of availability of funds over the next 2-3 years is essential to plan our interventions in the best possible manner. With good systems and perspectives in place, careful planning and all your support we are confident that we will achieve our objectives and the organisation will scale new heights.

Dr. Kalpana Sankar
Chief Executive Officer
Hand-in-Hand, Tamilnadu, India.
FROM THE ADVISER OF HAND-IN-HAND

Dr. Percy Barnevik

World-renowned management strategist and industrialist

“I have been visiting India some 50 times since my first visit in 1968 for Sandvik. Later, as Chief Executive Officer of ASEA/ABB, I saw employment in India grow from a few hundred in 1980 to 11,000 in 1996. As Board Member of the American companies Du Pont and General Motors, I have seen expansion from an American horizon in the chemical and automotive field. As the Chairman of Skanska, I dealt with big infrastructural projects, mainly hydroelectric plants. During some years, I have followed the Wallenberg companies’ activities as Chairman of Investor. Finally, the past six years as Chairman of AstraZeneca have given an insight into the medical field with research and development and clinical tests being outsourced to India; the setting up of a global tuberculosis centre in Bangalore was particularly encouraging.

The overall experience from this wide field of industrial activities has been positive; companies have grown, sometimes dramatically, and made money. There have also been times of frustration, like when 28 signatures were required to get a permission to build a coal-fired power plant, taking four years. Since 1991, I have advised the Indian government on and off. In my public appearances in India, I have focused on reduction of domestic barriers to increase foreign direct investment (FDI) through a better investment climate. Outside of India, I have promoted the opportunities offered in India long before India came into the limelight.

During the past six years, I have been engaged in Hand in Hand’s programmes to eliminate rural poverty - first only with money contributions and later with my time as well. Presently, I spend some twelve weeks per year in Tamil Nadu. I have become convinced that a mass mobilisation of the hundreds of millions of very poor people into productive employment is required if India shall achieve its proper growth potential. It is also necessary in order to limit social tensions coming from increasing income gaps and from growth of big slum areas around the big cities. Finally, discriminated women must be lifted out of their present dismal situation.

I believe Hand in Hand’s holistic approach in the “village upliftment” programme with working children to school, women’s empowerment with enterprise and job creation, medical camps, deepening of democracy and a cleaner environment will dramatically improve the life in impoverished villages.

Our “help to self-help” model in Tamil Nadu, with 1,000 new companies starting every month, has received international attention. I am happy to see Hand in Hand Consultants from India working in South Africa and Afghanistan to “train the trainers” and achieve similar results there.
Hand-in-Hand: An Introduction

Hand in Hand has been operational since 1988 in Kancheepuram District with child labour elimination, education, and the empowerment of women as the main areas of interventions. Since 2003, it has been registered as a Public Charitable Trust with an initial focus on education and the elimination of child labour. With time, our activities have expanded as per the demands from the rural communities in which we are working, and have come to include poverty reduction, interventions among rural poor families in a big way. Hand in Hand is currently involved in implementing an Integrated Community Development Project for poverty reduction with five interconnected and interdependent activities centered around:

- Child Labour
- Women’s Development Project
- Citizen Centres
- Health and Hygiene
- Watershed Management

In India, Hand in Hand is currently active in five districts of Tamil Nadu, namely: Kancheepuram, Vellore, Villupuram, Thiruvanamalai, Thiruvarur as well as in Pondicherry. With systematic planning and proper systems in place, we now intend to expand our area of work to all districts of Tamil Nadu.

The organisation is dedicated to the development of disadvantaged groups, and especially rural and tribal families, through grassroots action, research, and education. We envisage an integrated strategy to address the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment. It aims at building self-reliance amongst disadvantaged groups by alleviating poverty through sustained income generating programmes. Hand in Hand complements the development efforts by producing and disseminating knowledge about various development contexts, issues, and approaches through research and documentation. Additionally, the organisation extends and sustains development through capacity building of the practitioners.

Hand in Hand places great value on all of our co-workers. We recognise that our skilled and committed employees are an invaluable asset. Their diverse professional and personal backgrounds has enriched the organisation and facilitated our work in different socio-cultural contexts. What brings us all together is our fight against poverty and our belief in a better future for all. At present, HiH has about 700 full-time employees and 1,300 volunteers, many of who come from the communities we work in.

At present, Hand in Hand receives funding from our support organisation Hand in Hand Sweden, as well as from some individual organisations and from Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India. Their assistance has been critical for our operations. However, our activities and sphere of work have grown significantly in the last two years and we are now in need of major institutional support and funding. We look forward to your support and co-operation in helping us reach out and transform the lives of the thousands of people that we are supporting.

Achievements

**HAND IN HAND’S INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT has REACHED over 115,000 individuals as on 31.03.2006**

- More than 115,000 women have been organized into, over 7,336 Self-help Groups in 5 Districts of Tamil Nadu and have received training to improve livelihoods.
- More than 11,000 women have been assisted in setting up /renewing family based enterprises by skill training and access to credit.
- 803 women skill trained and employed in 2 leading Garment industries in Tamil Nadu.
- Some 4,700 ‘out of school’ children have benefited from Projects to improve education among them including mainstreaming such children into Government schools and other benefits.
- Some 250 girls and boys have received training in Computer Literacy Courses.
- 42 Group based enterprises generating employment and improving local productivity.
- 11,302 people were examined in 70 Health Camps and have been able to access better health services.
- 153 children from women headed households and tribal families have benefited from the Sponsorship programme.
- 122 children including 22 tribal children are receiving convent education at subsidized costs in Hand-in-Hand’s ‘Olive’s Primary School’, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu.
- 38 Citizen Centres have been set up in Kancheepuram block as rural information and transformation centers.
- Offering consulting services towards augmenting ‘Jobs for Growth’ Programme in South Africa and Afghanistan through micro finance interventions.
Commitment Towards Poverty Alleviation and Community Development

Dr. Kalpana Sankar
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Trustee
E-mail: kalpana.sankar@hihseed.org

Dr. Kalpana Sankar has been involved in the self-help movement of women in Tamil Nadu for the last twelve years. Her core competencies are in the fields of participatory assessment of Self Help Groups, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), gender differentiated impact, development of monitoring tools and indicators, as well as preparation of manuals and guidelines on gender-related issues.

Prior to joining Hand in Hand, Dr. Sankar served as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) where she assisted in the Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project (Mahalir Thittam). Dr. Sankar has been involved in several consultancy projects with organizations like the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Christian Aid, and Wetlands International etc. on micro finance and gender issues. She is currently also serving as Adviser to the Government of South Africa in their microfinance programme.

Mr. S Chinnappan
Trustee

Mr. S Chinnappan has an educational background in Sociology and a long experience from fieldwork within gender, microfinance, self-help groups, and rural development. In 1982, Mr. Chinnappan founded the Tamil Nadu based non-governmental organization (NGO) Kahi Kendra and has, since then, functioned as its Executive Director and Managing Trustee. He is also the Editor and Publisher of Muttram, a monthly magazine for Self-Help Groups that is sponsored by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Ms Mangala Ayre
Trustee

Ms Mangala Ayre has an educational background in teaching and 30 years of experience working as a teacher, with a specialty in kindergarten and preschool teaching. In 1988, Ms Ayre established the renowned Inner Harmony Holistic Learning Centre for children ranging from 2.5 years. She has developed various alternative teaching methods where music, story telling, dance, and drama are central elements.
HiH has a core team of over 20 committed professionals with rich experience in the fields of education, social work, microfinance, Self Help Groups, natural resource management, pro-poor governance, water management, building primary, secondary, and tertiary community organizations to promote self-reliance, and research & training. The Managing Trustee and the Board of Trustees are jointly responsible for the initiation and implementation of the projects.

Dr. Kalpana Sankar  
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Trustee  
E-mail: kalpana.sankar@handinhandtrust.org

Ms. Kalyani Rajaraman  
Project Director, Child Labour Elimination  
E-mail: kalyani.rajaraman@handinhandtrust.org

Ms. Mangalam Balasubramanian  
Project Director, Self Help Groups  
E-mail: mangalam.balasubramanian@handinhandtrust.org

Ms. Madhu Sharan  
Project Director, Private Partnerships  
E-mail: madhu.sharan@hihseed.org

Ms. Madhu Sharan has a graduate degree in Sociology from Delhi University and a postgraduate degree and M. Phil in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is currently pursuing doctoral studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University on the theme “Empowerment of Women in Microfinance Programmes”.

Over the last decade and a half, her career has spanned the worlds of academia and civil society. Her sustained and abiding interest in the subject of gender issues, Women’s Empowerment and Social Change is evident from the several papers she has authored and talks that she has given on these themes. Prior to joining HiH in 2004 Ms. Sharan has served as Adviser and Consultant to various national level institutions including National Council of Educational Research & Training, Central Board of Secondary Education and National Open School.
NEWS FLASH… Working together to achieve great heights!

- **Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms** from South Africa, Ms. Thoko Didiza visits HiH, Tamilnadu in March 2005. A five-member delegation from South Africa including the Cabinet minister visited Kancheepuram to understand the micro finance model of HiH. The delegation interacted with several self-help groups of women to assess the impact of the model on the rural women and were of the view that this model of ‘job creation’ could be extremely useful in the South African context for employment generation and poverty alleviation.

- **Training of 16 senior level delegates from S. Africa in HiH in May 2005**
  A 16 member delegation of politicians, administrators and bankers from S. Africa visited Hand-in-Hand, Tamilnadu from May 11-14, 2005 to study microfinance, self-help groups and their linkages to federations, enterprise development and other related activities. During their visit, the delegation interacted closely with NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development) to benefit from their experiences in the areas of re-financing agricultural activities and SHG credit linkages for micro-enterprises, thereby promoting rural development.

- **Ms. Shanta Sinha, Director, MV Foundation and Magassasy Award Winner, and Padmashree visited HiH in August 2005.**
  Ms. Shanta Sinha, and her Team visited HiH’s Residential School on August 12, 2005 and addressed the ‘Child Rights Protection Committee’ members urging them to devote themselves selflessly to the cause of building India’s future, i.e. promoting education of children. She also declared Hand-in-Hand’s first Child Labour free Panchayat in Kancheepuram.

  In October 2005, a team of 25 Swedish Chief Executive Officers visited Hand in Hand and our projects. The group also participated in a seminar organised by Hand in Hand on ‘Poverty Alleviation and Economic Growth through Self Help Groups’. Several papers were presented by a diverse group of theoreticians, development practitioners, and consultants working in the area of microfinance. The expert panelists included former United Nations Adviser BS Rayhan, Chief General Manager of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Dr. Prakash Bakshi, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore Professor Trilochan Sastry, Gender and Development Consultants, Ranjini Moorthy and Ahmedabad Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) member Kapila Malvi.

- **Launch of ‘Child Rights Protection Committees’ in Kancheepuram District in August 2005**
  Mr. R. Venkatesan, Collector of Kancheepuram District and Mr. Sai Kumar, Labour Commissioner, Government of Tamilnadu, addressed a large gathering at HiH’s Residential School on August 15, 2005 and launched the formation of CRPC (Child Rights Protection Committees) in 104 Panchayats in Kancheepuram and Villupuram.

Guiding Principles

All of our activities are guided by the following principles:
- Pro-poor and a bottom-up approach
- Participatory learning
- Mainstreaming gender in all activities
- Transparency and accountability in all actions
- Working in co-ordination with local institutions
• Book Release of ‘Micro finance for a Million Smiles’ authored by Dr. Kalpana Sankar and Madhu Sharan.
  
  Mr. K. Skandan, Managing Director of Tamilnadu Women’s Development Corporation realised this book in October 2005. This book is immensely useful to NGOs, theoreticians, development practitioners and Government agencies working in areas of micro finance. It is a documentation of a series of hands on experiences, impact assessment, success stories, lessons learnt and strategies on a modified approach used by HiH to ensure quick sustainability of SHGs and in the shortest possible time.

• Paper presentation on ‘Mainstreaming Self-help Groups Towards Financial Services and Enterprise Development - The Indian Experience’ by Dr. Kalpana Sankar, CEO, HiH at Pretoria, S. Africa in November 2005
  
  A national workshop was held in Pretoria in November 2005 for officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land Banks and NGOs in S. Africa to prepare itself for a nationwide launch of Micro Agriculture Finance Schemes in South Africa (MAFISA) in March 2006. Hand-in-Hand, Tamilnadu, India was the only NGO invited from anywhere in the World to participate in this workshop.

• Dr. Percy Barnevik, Adviser HiH chairs a session at World Economic Forum in N. Delhi in November 2005

• Best Model Residential School
  
  Hand in Hand’s Poongavanam Residential School for Children who have been engaged in child labour was rated ‘Best Model Residential School’ in Kancheepuram by the District Education Department.

• Hand-in-Hand Children’s Day Out at Sports Day Meet
  
  All students of HiH Transit Schools and Residential School had a gala time at a Sports Day organized by HiH on February 14, 2006.

• Medical Camp for SHG Women on International Women’s Day
  
  A medical camp was held on the eve of International Women’s Day where 10 Doctors from Apollo Clinic in Chennai examined 550 SHG women and distributed free medicines to them.
Hand-in-Hand’s Integrated Community Development Projects for Poverty Reduction

Poverty impedes growth. It is tied to a lack of access to productive resources, physical goods and income which results in individual and/or group deprivation, vulnerability and powerlessness. It has various manifestations including hunger and malnutrition, ill-health, and limited or no access to education, health care, and safe housing and (paid) work environments. It also includes experiences of economic, political and social discrimination.

The development objective of Hand in Hand (HiH), Tamilnadu is to reduce rural poverty by creating sustainable livelihoods for 1 million impoverished and malnourished families by 2010. Eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished through anti-poverty programmes alone. It requires an Integrated Community Development approach and Hand-in-Hand has tried to promote it in a big way through all its projects.

Since women and children are most vulnerable and doubly oppressed, HiH’s Integrated community development project targets this category and strives to make a better world for them and their families through its focus on education, building sustainable livelihoods for women, raising health and medical standards and strengthening grass root democracy in the rural communities.

HiH’s investment in mainstreaming school dropout children into Government schools, empowering women through Self Help Group (SHG) movement and Citizen Centers and creating Micro Enterprises is an investment in a healthier, more literate and more productive population.

1. Child Labour Elimination Programme:

Child Labour in any form is not acceptable! Any child out of school is a potential child labourer! HiH’s definition

Our educational interventions are designed in partnership with the local communities with an aim to prepare children for admission to government schools. Our goal is to ensure that all children should complete education till Class 10. Older children (14 plus) are admitted in our transit schools where special assistance is provided to enable them to pass Class 10. Hand in Hand is committed to sustained follow up on every child. We never give up on a child! In the last financial year, we have mainstreamed 3,080 out of school children back to school. Totally 4,700 out of school children have been sent to formal schooling through the efforts of HiH.

Strategies adopted for Child Labour Elimination:

- Conducting thorough and systematic village surveys in a campaign mode, thereby mapping school going and out-of-school children (child labourers) as well as “invisible children”.
- Mainstreaming out-of-school children through direct enrolment, residential school, transit schools, and Alternative Innovative Education centres.
- Focusing not only on mainstreaming out-of-school children, but also on keeping children in schools up to grade ten at least.
- Assisting older children (14 plus) who are interested in passing eighth or tenth standard board exam through transit schools.
- Sensitizing the local community and creating consensus on children’s rights. Organizing local communities and encouraging them to fight for children’s rights.
- Alleviating extreme poverty and marginalisation by providing families from Tribal communities with food packages, medical checkups, and etceteras via the Sponsorship Programme.
- Strengthening government schools by maintaining healthy teacher-student ratios.

Activities for Education:

1. Poongavanam Residential School

Poongavanam Residential School aims at preparing former child labourers for the government school system. The school accommodates children in the age group of 9-14 years who have been working and not had any, or very irregular schooling. The staff members consist of dedicated and professional teachers who follow innovative educational techniques to teach such children. The school is free of charge for all children.

2. Mahatma Gandhi Primary School

This school has been set up to impart quality education to children in the age group of 3-12 years especially those belonging to the marginalised section of society. Innovative and alternate teaching methods are adopted to make learning a joyful experience for children, most of whom are first-generation learners. Teaching is done in English and Computer education is introduced at pre-school level.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1 million livelihoods by 2010

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Poongavanam Residential School

Mahatma Gandhi Primary School

1 million livelihoods by 2010
Committed Towards Poverty Alleviation and Community Development

3. Transit Schools
   Hand in Hand’s Transit schools play an important role in enabling school dropouts complete and pursue higher education. Children between the age group of 14-20 years who have either dropped out of school or have not been able to clear their tenth standard board exams are given special coaching by qualified teachers to clear their exams and pursue further studies.

4. School Strengthening Programme
   Hand in Hand is keen on improving and strengthening government schools. Since Government schools normally lack adequate resources and have a high teacher-student ratio, HiH hires additional teachers to improve the quality of education in such schools. Hand in Hand contributes 50 percent of the teachers’ salary while the village pays the remaining half.

5. Sponsorship Programme
   As a means to support some of the poorest and most marginalised families with children, Hand in Hand in co-operation with Hand in Hand Sweden is administrating a Sponsorship Programme where Swedish sponsors support families with children with a monthly food-package as well as basic healthcare. This has proved to be an invaluable contribution to the families involved.

6. Social Mobilisation
   Hand-in-Hand’s mission is to make Kancheepuram District ‘Child labour free’ with approximately 25,000 ‘out of school’ children access to mainstream education!

II. Women’s Development Project:
   ‘Eradicating rural poverty by building sustainable livelihoods among families through equitable and pro-active participation of women’ - HiH’s Development Goal!

The main focus of Hand in Hand’s Self-help Group Project is to alleviate rural poverty and empower women by forming them into SHGs, training them in capacity building and skill development and finally helping them build sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.

1. Strategies for Women’s Development Project:
   a) Forming active and cohesive groups of women (SHGs) based on similar socio-economic backgrounds. HiH targets women below the poverty line and among them preference is given to women heading households, widows and deserted women. It is estimated that poor, rural women would account for 70 to 80 percent of all group members. HiH’s mission is to form and empower 1.3 million poor rural women into groups by 2010 and generate employment opportunities for them.
   b) Training the SHGs in habit of thrift, savings, internal rotation, leadership skills, group dynamics, capacity building, and basic numeric and literacy skills.
   c) Providing access to credit to women through the groups from rural banking services. It is estimated that by 2010 about 800,000 poor women will be able to access these financial services.
   d) Providing skill training, entrepreneurial development training in their specific area of skill and interest.
   e) Promoting setting up of family and group based enterprises and facilitating forward, backward and marketing linkages. HiH’s mission is to ensure that 80% of the SHG women have their own enterprise within 18 months of group formation.
   f) Arranging insurance cover for the micro enterprises.
   g) Creating strong community structures and empowering rural poor women forming federations, strengthening cluster level federations and panchayat level federations.

2. Activities for Women’s Development Project:
   a) Group Formation: Formation of homogeneous groups belonging to the same socio-economic class with focus on the most backward section of the society.
   b) Training and capacity building of SHGs: Forms an integral part of HiH interventions and utmost importance is given to it and is carried out on a continuous basis.
   c) Important training programmes include training in the habit of thrift, savings and internal rotation, leadership skills, group dynamics, capacity building, basic numeracy and literacy skills, gender sensitization, entrepreneurial skills line tuned to specific enterprises, attitudinal change, health and environmental issues and Panchayat Raj institutions to prepare them to contest local elections.
   d) Financial management and Banking Skills
      (i) Inculcating financial discipline amongst members through savings and thrift.
      (ii) Encouraging internal lending and familiarisation with banking procedures.
      (iii) Training in books keeping, accounting, loan repayment, financial discipline and banking procedures.
      (iv) Facilitating bank linkages after 6 months of group formation.
      (v) Ensuring prompt repayment of bank loans.
3. PROMOTING ‘JOBS FOR GROWTH’ in RURAL ECONOMY:

Everything in and around the SHGs serves one purpose i.e. creating sustainable enterprises and jobs, and thereby raising the income of poor families and villages. Hand in Hand believes that when loans are given to women for asset creation and generation of income, it increases their status and strengthens their position in the family while also reducing household poverty and increasing health and education standards in the family. It is in this aspect that HiH stands out as unique when compared to any other NGO in the State.

This is done in 2 ways i.e:

a) Promoting Family Based Enterprises and
b) Promoting Group Based Medium Size Enterprises.

c) These Enterprises can be farm based, allied or non-farm based. 70% of HiH's enterprises are related to farm-based and allied agricultural activities.

3a. Strategies for ‘Jobs for Growth’: Promotion of Family Based Enterprises:

(i) Micro-credit as Entry Point: HiH views micro-credit as the entry point for income generation and poverty reduction. Access to micro-credit enables households to use their skills in income-generating activities, helps them generate surpluses and slowly expand into multiple activities, thus countering seasonal and activity-based risks.

(ii) Hybrid of Grameen and SHG Model: To facilitate strengthening of existing family based activities HiH follows a hybrid of the Grameen Bank and the Self-help Group approach. Within 2-3 months of SHG formation, HiH steps in with smaller loans for women to either set up (with inputs from their own savings) or to strengthen their existing family-based activities. There are systems in place to ensure that members do not squander their loans on trivial consumption needs. Credit is provided to the remaining members in a phased manner for setting up micro-enterprises.

(iii) Facilitating Access to Continuous Credit: HiH encourages SHGs to have access to continuous credit from the banks and facilitates procedures to ensure the same. It has been observed that after 2-3 doses of loans from the groups, the members become enterprising enough to take bigger loans from banks for starting their own new family business.

3b. Medium Sized Enterprises: These could either be farm or non-farm based activities. The investment for such enterprises usually varies between Rs. 200,000 - 500,000. HiH has so far facilitated 40 such group-based activities. Examples of such farm-based enterprises promoted by HiH are diary unit, organic vegetable cultivation on land on lease, vermi compost production unit, fishing unit, etc. Apart from this, HiH has facilitated several non-farm based enterprises like bakery production, paper cup production, sanitary napkin unit, liquid soap and detergent powder unit, macro weaving / embroidery / tailoring units (all as group enterprises), canteen etc.

Strategies for Medium Sized Enterprises:

(i) Enterprises are selected after rigorous market survey of feasibility, demand and supply of products.

(ii) HiH then organises experts to provide training to these women in aspects technical training, skill upgradation, maintaining books of accounts, quality control, competitive pricing, etc. Members are encouraged to review balance sheets every quarter.

(iii) Intensive training is also given to women in aspects of procurement of raw materials, marketing, networking, conflict resolution, attitudinal change, crisis management, etc. so that women themselves are able to take the unit forward with HiH in a supporting role only.

(iv) Support from Hand in Hand includes preparation of bankable proposals in English and Tamil for such medium-sized projects with detailed information about capital investment, raw materials, manufacturing process, cost and benefit analysis, marketing scope etc. Additionally, HiH also provides free work place, electricity and marketing linkages for an initial period of one year by which time the unit is expected to stabilize and generate sufficient profits. It also provides assistance to groups for transporting their produce to local markets and encourages participation.
III. Citizens Centres:

"Strengthening grass root democracy by building capacities of citizens through knowledge and action" - HH's Development Goal

With an aim to strengthening democracy at grass root level and increase the villagers' awareness of, and engagement in, various socio-political issues, HH seeks to establish one Citizen Centre in every Panchayat in Kancheepuram district. This will encourage community participation, ownership, and unity around an unmet demand for social services such as library, computer education, and most importantly information for villagers on how to vote, apply for welfare programmes, to register for government schemes, etc.

Strategy for Citizen Centres:

a) Although all Citizen Centres offer a standard service package, each centre has been equipped depending on the need of the specific community in which it operates.

b) A typical centre has an ‘IT-kiosk’ with one to three computers, internet connection, and facilities for printing, copying, scanning, and faxing, as well as a small library with dailies to encourage reading habits among children and adults.

c) The centres offer basic and very popular computer courses that aim at making the younger generation computer literate.

d) These Centres also serve as tuition centres for first generation learners. So far, HH is running 43 such Centres in Kancheepuram.

e) After creating sufficient awareness and generating information and building adequate support systems from the community, HH plans to withdraw in phases to encourage community ownership.

IV. Health and Hygiene

"Facilitating universal access to minimum health care and preventive care through advocacy and awareness" - HH’s Development Goal

In order for the poorest and most marginalized groups of society to access healthcare, Hand in Hand organizes regular medical camps and information campaigns on health and hygiene.

Medical Camps: A typical medical camp includes a medical doctor accompanied by a small team, offering free medical examinations and referrals as well as basic medication, vaccinations, vitamins, and nutritional supplements to the villagers.

Awareness Campaigns: As an attempt to raise awareness about health-related issues, our medical camps are often accompanied by information campaigns on issues such as HIV/AIDS, alcohol consumption, family planning, personal hygiene, and nutrition. We also use these campaigns to raise awareness about environmental issues.

V. Training and Capacity Building

Training and capacity building forms one of the cornerstones in the Self Help Group and Microfinance Project. Once a Self Help Group has been formed, utmost importance is given to continuous training, with individually designed programmes. Manuals, books, and curricula are designed in consultation with various project partners, such as government departments and agencies, other non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and participating banks.

Apart from the numerous routine Self-help group training programmes in capacity building, finance management and entrepreneurial development training, Hand-in-Hand also conducts 2 very special Training Courses which are increasingly becoming very popular and highly appreciated among the beneficiaries. They are as follows:

Literacy Crash Course: With the high level of illiteracy among the Self Help Group women, it becomes important to engage in adult education. Hence, Hand in Hand offers an intensive, 100-day literacy and arithmetic crash course to all illiterate women. More than half of the women acquire basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills by the end of the 100 days. The literacy programme has been completed and plans of extending this Literacy programme to 30,000 SHG women in the next financial year is in the offing.

Aina Tailoring Centre: In order to equip women with a life-long skill and generate employment among them, Hand-in-Hand offers a six-month course in tailoring and embroidery, taking through more than 500 women per year. The main target groups are widows and unemployed young women. Hand-in-Hand has signed contracts with two of the leading garment industries in Tamil Nadu for job placement for these women. Three-fourths of all tailors from Aina Tailoring Centre have guaranteed jobs after termination of the course, and the remaining will be self-employed.
Annual Report - 2005-06

Committed Towards Poverty Alleviation and Community Development

Hand-in-Hand Abroad – New Horizons

Hand in Hand’s microfinance model of promoting ‘jobs for growth’ has caught global attention and evoked much interest in the international arena. Our overseas partnership programme includes supplying consultants, training of trainers, extending managerial support, and know-how to stakeholders within and outside India. We are currently engaged by the Governments of South Africa and Afghanistan in the design and implementation of their microfinance programmes.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Government of South Africa has long been grappling to address deep-seated inequalities and target the marginalized poor in order to bridge the gap with the “second” economy. Towards this, President Thabo Mbeki launched the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGI-SA) in July 2005.

In his State of the Nation address on February 3, 2006 President Thabo Mbeki indicated that:

“The ASGI-SA process has helped us greatly by exposing us to the concerns of women with regard to their economic prospects. Among others, the women have pointed to the need for us to focus on issues such as access to finance, development of co-operatives, fast-tracking women artisans, and providing ‘set-asides’ for women in government and public enterprises procurement programmes.”

Hand in Hand has been contracted to assist the Government of South Africa in the conceptualization of the component of the ASGI-SA that focuses on the “second” economy, i.e. the National Programme for Creation of Small Enterprises and Jobs in the Second Economy. The programme objectives are to:

- Increase employment and income for un- and underemployed poor people.
- Reduce income gaps in society.
- Generate productive jobs in villages and small towns in order to lessen migration to big city slums.
- Economically empower poor women.
- Address constraints that inhibit economic growth and shared benefits.

The intended outcome is the establishment of viable and sustainable businesses that have potential for growth and that generate quality jobs and higher incomes for individual entrepreneurs, workers, and their families. Over a five-year period, the programme aims at facilitating the creation and growth of 300,000 enterprises by supporting Self Help Groups. It will also ensure that 1.5 million jobs are filled by women actively involved in productive Self Help Groups.

VI. Watershed Management

Tamil Nadu has an acute water shortage. Sinking groundwater levels and scarce water resources for irrigation pose a monumental challenge for the State and the residents of Tamil Nadu. By harvesting rainwater, this damage can be limited or even reversed. The purpose of Hand in Hand’s Water Management Programme is to conserve both water and soil. By retaining rainwater, we are able to improve possibilities for irrigation and avoid erosion of the thin top-layer of soil while raising groundwater levels.

Hand in Hand’s Water Management Programme includes digging water tanks, building terraces in hilly areas, turning wasteland into cultivable land, and forestation. We are currently managing two programmes, both funded by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Each programme spans a five-year period. Much of the work is conducted on a grassroots level by Self Help Groups consisting of both men and women.

Strategy for Water Management

- Ensure community participation in segregating waste at source as biodegradable waste and non-biodegradable waste.
- Create public awareness campaigns to spread the message of segregation of waste at source.
- Provide continuous training on how to avoid mixing of wet, dry, and inert wastes.
- Enable provision of separate individual or communal bins for biodegradable waste and for non-biodegradable waste as well as for different institutions.
- Increase the usage of compost for gardening, rural farming, and urban farming.

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Hand-in-Hand has been actively involved in this Project since the visit of Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms, Ms. Thoko Didiza to Kancheepuram, Tamilnadu in March 2005.

In working with the core team for the implementation of ASGI-SA, Hand in Hand has given several strategic inputs for the implementation of this nationwide programme. These include: preparation of concept papers, operational manuals, project methodology and training the trainers. The staff stationed at South Africa provided on site support for implementation of ASGI-SA.

Additionally, Hand in Hand has also drawn up a separate panel of experts and consultants in the field of training, social mobilisation, banking, enterprise development etc. for this programme.

HAND-IN-HAND IN AFGHANISTAN

At the London Donor Conference on Afghanistan in January/February 2006, the Government of Afghanistan requested Dr. Percy Barnevik to investigate whether a Job Creation Programme (JCP) could be implemented in Afghanistan. Although derived from Hand in Hand’s approach in Tamil Nadu, as well as from the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGI-SA), such programme would be adapted to an Afghan context.

Although activities in Afghanistan are still in an initial phase yet Hand-in-Hand is confident of augmenting the ‘jobs for growth’ process in Afghanistan with the support of Government and other development agencies. A small local representation in Kabul has been set up. The Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in Afghanistan has made study trips to the Hand in Hand programmes in Tamil Nadu to adopt similar strategies and interventions for creation of jobs and micro enterprises in Afghanistan.

PUBLICATIONS

In the year 2005-06 Hand-in-Hand, along with achieving remarkable strides in field level functioning and reaching out to thousands of underprivileged through its projects, has also been able to produce and disseminate knowledge through numerous research, documentations and publications. Some of them are as follows:

1. ‘Helping Hands—Microfinance for a Million Smiles’ authored by Dr. Kalpana Sankar and Ms. Madhu Sharan (Pgs 70, price Rs. 150). This book is a documentation of a series of hands on experiences, impact assessment, success stories, lessons learnt and strategies on a modified approach used by HiH to ensure quick sustainability of SHGs and in the shortest possible time. This book is immensely useful to NGOs, theoreticians, development practitioners and Government agencies working in similar areas.

2. Compendium of Project Proposals for Micro Enterprises (2 Sets of 50 proposals each in English and Tamil)

SHG women in rural areas have neither the expertise nor the resources to carry out extensive project appraisals. This Compendium (50 Proposals) has been designed to enable SHGs to choose from a wide range of ‘off the shelf’ projects on diverse micro-enterprises, like paper cup production, bakery, liquid soap, detergent cakes, jute bags etc. The projects outlined gives detailed information about capital investment, raw materials, manufacturing process, cost and benefits analysis, marketing scope etc.


Like the above compendium, these Proposals are compiled with the aim to provide information to the rural poor of profitable activities in the agricultural and allied sector especially those, which have the potential for quick income generation.


This manual is a resource book on how to elevate rural economy through creation of enterprises and ‘jobs for growth’. Rich in practical suggestions and hands on experiences, this manual cuts across boundaries of nations and will be useful to NGOs and practitioners all over the world. All interested in alleviating poverty through micro finance initiatives, particularly through creation of jobs for growth of the economy stand to benefit from this effort.

5. Training Manuals for South Africa – Dr. Kalpana Sankar and Ms. Madhu Sharan.

Training Manuals to kick-start the Micro Agricultural Finance Schemes of South Africa (MAFISA) have been prepared by HiH. These have been fine-tuned and customized in the specific context of S. Africa. These are Training Manuals, Working Manuals, Guidelines for SHG / Co-operative Credit Rating and Manual for NGOs.

6. Study on Livelihoods has been undertaken for Wetlands International to assess the potential livelihoods in Tsunami affected regions.
CASE FOR SUPPORT FOR HAND IN HAND

- Hand in Hand stands out among other NGOs. Our administrative costs are a mere seven percent, making every penny spent, a penny well spent! We have 700 employees - all of them Indian - and 1,300 volunteers, a few of whom are from industrialized countries.
- All our projects are based on sustainability; we help women and families to help themselves through job creation and capacity building. We do not want to be a permanent distributor of aid and create dependence. Instead, we truly aim at achieving help to self help.
- Our strategies and interventions are adopted after grassroots level participation, and aligned with macro level policies and the UN Millennium Development Goals. We work in close co-operation with local institutions and avoid creating parallel structures.
- Finally, our commitment to transparency and accountability ensures that the end use of funds is clearly identifiable in all activities and at all times.

Need for Support: We now seek to enhance our coverage both in terms of geographies and reach. We believe that donors’ support, coupled with our commitment to the cause of community development, can truly make a difference and facilitate a life of dignity, hope and choice to the marginalised and disadvantaged sections of the society.

By 2011, Hand in Hand plans to have:

- Organized 1.3 million women into Self Help Groups in the state of Tamil Nadu and generated employment opportunities for them. Including family members, this affects eight million people.
- Made Kancheepuram District “child labour free” by mainstreaming 25,000 children who have been involved in child labor activities into regular schooling. We will continue with the other districts in Tamil Nadu in parallel as soon as we have funding. In the whole of Tamil Nadu, we have estimated that there are about 400,000 children involved in labour activities.
- Set up 3,500 Citizens’ Centers covering ten districts in Tamil Nadu or 20 million people. 1.5 million villagers should then be trained in computer literacy.

Conclusion:

Our engagements have grown rapidly in the last years, as has the need for funding. In order to continue in our successful endeavours against child labour elimination and poverty eradication, we seek your partnership and support. We would deeply appreciate if you could visit our website www.bhseed.org to identify the areas of your interest. All donations, irrespective of size, will contribute to our work.

We will be happy to give you further information and discuss your ideas on how you would be able to partner in our endeavours to alleviate poverty in India. We would also be able to forward printed material upon request. In case you are curious in finding out more or you are interested in a particular area please do not hesitate to contact us bhseed@gmail.com or handinhandtamilnadu@hotmail.com.

APPENDIX

1. Auditor’s Report : Hand-in-Hand
2. Auditor’s Report : SEED Trust
3. Consolidated Financial Statement : Hand-in-Hand
4. Consolidated Financial Statement : SEED Trust
5. Hand-in-Hand’s Board Meetings
6. Hand-in-Hand’s District Offices
AUDITOR’S REPORT

To,
The Trustees of HAND-IN-HAND TAMIL NADU - KANCHEEPURAM

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of HAND-IN-HAND TAMIL NADU - KANCHEEPURAM as on 31-3-2006 and also the Income and Expenditure Account of the Trust of the year ended on that date, annexed thereto. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of HAND-IN-HAND TAMIL NADU - KANCHEEPURAM. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards, generally accepted in India. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall financial statements presentation. We believe that our audit provides reasonable basis for our opinion.

And report that:

1. We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
2. In our opinion proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Trust so far it appears from our examination of such books.
3. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of account.
4. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view:
   a. In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Trust as at 31st March 2006 and
   b. In the case of the Income and Expenditure of the excess of expenditure over income for the year ended on that date.

26-05-2006
CHENNAI

For AROCKIYASAMY & RAJ
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
A. Nagarajan, F.C.A.
Partner
(Membership No. 20680)
### Annual Report - 2005-06

Committed Towards Poverty Alleviation and Community Development

**Hand – In – Hand Tamilnadu**  
No.42/270, Vandavasi Road, Periyar Nagar, Kancheepuram - 631 503.

#### CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

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**XII Excess of Income Over Expenditure Cared to Balance Sheet (A-B)**  
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**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31-3-2006**

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Subject to our Report for Arvindasamy & Raj  
Managing Trustee  
Chennai  
A. Nagarajan  
20-06-2006  
Partner
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<td>459530</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>51664</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>51825242</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|       | ASSETS                           |          |                 |         |
| VI     | Fixed Assets                     | 5        | 3593673         |         |
| VII    | Gross Value                      |          | Less : Depreciation | 365792 |
| VIII   | Net Value                        | 3227881  |                 |         |
|       | Investments                      | 6        | 30000000        |         |
|       | Current Assets                   |          |                 |         |
|       | Advances                         | 7        | 718664          |         |
|       | Micro Loans to SHG Members       | 8        | 4043281         |         |
|       | Cash and Bank Balances           | 9        | 13835416        |         |
| TOTAL  |                                  |          | 51825242        |         |

### CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Sch. No.</th>
<th>1-4-2005 to 31-3-2006</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Revenue Grants From Foreign Sources</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18744816</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Interest Income on Micro Loans to SHG Members</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>147637</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Bank Interest</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>311893</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>19204346</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|       | EXPENDITURE                                               |          |                         |         |
| IV     | Administration Expenses                                   | 13       | 1731491                |         |
| V      | Programme Expenses                                       | 14       | 11688580               |         |
| VI     | Grant to Hand-in-Hand                                    | 15       | 4958954                |         |
| VII    | Depreciation                                             | 5        | 365792                 |         |
| TOTAL  |                                                          | B        | 18744816               |         |

|     | VIII Excess of Income Over Expenditure Carried to Balance Sheet (A-B) | Subject our Report for Arockiasamy & Raj | 459530 |

Accountant  Chairman  
Chennai  A. Nagarajan  
20-06-2006  Partner
Hand-in-Hand's Board Meetings in the year 2005-06

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>11.04.2005</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>14.07.2005</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>15.10.2005</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>21.01.2006</td>
<td>Kancheepuram</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hand-in-Hand's District Offices:

**THIRUVALLUR**
No.126, Iyana Avenue, Dll Mill, Thiruvallur - 602 001.
Phone : 9544-2766702
Cell : 98400-48716

**PONDICHERRY**
No.6A, First Cross Street, Gandhi Nagar,
Pondicherry - 605 009.
Cell : 93450-33757

**VILLUPURAM**
No.38, First Street, Jayapuram,
Tindivanam - 604 001.
Phone : 954147-309904
Cell : 93450-33757

**THIRUVANNAMALAI**
No.24/12, 6th Street, Gandhi Nagar,
Thiruvanamalai - 606 601.
Phone : 04175-224604
Cell : 94435-76226

**VELLORE**
No.32, TVK Nagar, Rangapuram,
Chathuranchavadi, Vellore - 632 009.
Phone : 95416-3200285

**KANCHEEPURAM**
No.29, Sudarshnam Nagar, Periyar Nagar,
Little Kancheepuram - 631 503.
Phone : 044-67272259
Hand-in-Hand Tamilnadu

Annual Report 2005-06

"Committed to Building a Poverty Free Environment that offers Dignity, Hope and Choice to the underprivileged."

Hand-in-Hand
No. 42, Vandanavai Road, Periyar Nagar, Kanchipuram - 631 503, Tamilnadu, India.
Phone : 91-44-27269301 / 27267065
E-mail : handinhandtamilnadu@hotmail.com
Website : www.binhandinhand.org

SEED Trust
No. 24/12, 6th Street,
Gandhi Nagar,
Thiruvanamalai - 606 001.
Phone : 04175 274604.
Cell : 94435-7G226

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