



**FINAL REPORT FORM
for
WACC-SUPPORTED PROJECT**

This document is for end-of-project reporting. It has two parts: a) Narrative Report; b) Financial Report.

You will need to refer to your Project Application Form, the Agreement with WACC, and your bank statement when completing this form. Please return it with supporting documents and materials to WACC. Please answer the questions as fully as possible.

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

1. Project Title: (as appeared in the Agreement)	DALIT RIGHTS
2. Project Reference Number: (as appeared in the Agreement)	837
3. Full Name of Project Holder:	ASSOCIATION FOR THE RURAL POOR
4. Full Address:	NO.85, VIVEKANANDA SCHOOL STREET, SAKTHIVEL NAGAR, CHENNAI 600 082
5. Name of Country:	INDIA
6. Period the project was implemented: (from month/year to month/year)	APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010
7. Project Grant received: [You must include any bank charges deducted]	Amount in local currency: 236314 Amount in Euros or US\$ (circle as appropriate): 3600
8. Date(s) Project Grant(s) were received: (as in your bank statement) 1 st remittance 2 nd remittance	First Instalment 02.06.2009

9. Activities

Give a summary of the major activities carried out during the reporting period in comparison with those planned. In case of changes from the original objectives, please explain the reasons.

Please describe in detail the activities of the project that were implemented such as content of production, programmes, workshops or training

9.1 If the project is a workshop, seminar, or consultation, please attach the list of participants, the themes/topics of their speeches/papers, and any statement, declaration, or book published.

9.2 If the project is primarily purchase of equipment, please describe what kind of impact / change the equipment is bringing to the beneficiaries.

To Redeem 1205 acres of land used by 1400 Dalit families:

To redeem 1205 acres of land used by 1400 Dalit families (6000 people) over a century in Thervoy Dalit village, about 70 kilometers of Chennai, the capital of Tamilnadu state in Southern India, all most all people including women, youths, men and children have been involved in the struggle for redeeming the land of 1205 acres from the Government of Tamilnadu which had been grabbed from the poor Dalits for establishing Industrial Park under Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

They have been going on from one village to other, in the whole district (like a county) meeting the village leaders to support them in their struggle and also engaging in signature Campaign to submit as memorandum to the Government officials who have done such injustice. Many a time, the victims, both men and women went on hunger strikes and picketing in front of Government offices to press their demands. They went on rallies and walked 63 kilo meters covering the enter stretch of major national highway shouting slogans and carrying playcards and banners condemning the Government. A few men (seventy two) were arrested and were thrown into prison for 15 days on non-bailable offence against the agitators when they were protesting peacefully. Posters, Phamlets highlighting the struggle has been pasted on the walls and distributed to general public in the cities, towns and rural areas.

A Public Hearing was arranged by the Association for the Rural Poor to understand the agonies of the suffering Dalits of Thervoy villages with top Government officials both from the Federal and State Governments who were the root cause of all these hardships plus NGOs social activists, church leaders, advocates, university professors and student representatives with concerned citizens were invited to explain the struggle and plead with all of them to create awareness to redeem the land of 1205 acres. It was a great success. Big public meetings were held a number of times to get the people support and civil society involvements.

The three phases of activities mentioned in the project proposal and budget presented to WACC at the end of February 2009 have been carried out but not yet completed.

The third phase consists of financial support for all the above mentioned activities have been affected over the past four weeks since the full final payment yet to be received, from WACC was delayed. The fault is ARP's because of the delay caused by our certified auditors is auditing the first grant of support.

As a result, the enough funds have not been offered immediately to the suffering people who have been fighting for their land rights. The Association had to brow money from friends and well wishers to support the ongoing activities.

The original activities as indicated in the earlier project proposal has not been changed except waiting for the next approval of grant from WACC to complete it. In a country like India, poor people especially Dalits, who have been displaced because of globalisation values, have to bear the burnt of going through psychological and physical struggle for what they have lost. Unfortunately there are powerless, voiceless and considered as no people in the era of modernity. However, self determination to prolonged struggle with the support of the other allies of the working classes and intellectual communities who are activists within their heart and soul, would enable them to have final victory but only with some economic causalities such as starvation, loosing daily employment, denying livelihood options and so on.

10. Was the project successful? (If possible, please give measurable indicators.)

Certainly, what has been achieved in terms of quantity and quality is measurable. Highlighting the land struggle through media coverage, their determination to sustain the struggle, with any sacrifice is something remarkable and worth admiring. The women and youth are spearheading the struggle and campaigns against all odds. Using a SWOT analysis them by ARP had measured a positive appraisal because of their qualitative success.

11. Project Beneficiaries

Please describe the actual direct beneficiaries and indicate the number of women and men. Please also mention any indirect beneficiaries.

Project Beneficiaries who have been directly involved out of total 6000 people in Thervoy Dalit village are 1400 families. From each family one person either male or female which includes youth, both boys and girls, above eighteen years participated and are ready for further action.

Women have been in the forefront and have been the spokespersons in all rallies, public meetings, meeting officials and representing their grievances, shouting, crying and refusing to move from hunger fasts and sit down strikes even if they have been threatened by Police personnel and other muscle men. They were invited to be eye witnesses while their case was dealt with in the High Court before the Judges and attorneys while defending their Public litigation case. Women, had were, the worst losers of the lands of 1205 acres. They used to collect fuel woods, herbs and medical plants from the lands, and grazing livestock were mostly done by women. Many women used to collect the broom sticks which are like reeds and were used as sweepers of offices and houses. Atleast ten out of our women used to be engaged in this work. But they were the worst affected.

The other beneficiaries who have been indirectly benefited were the neighbourly Dalit villages who saw and participated in the land struggles of Thervoy Dalits, have become more confident that they could oppose vested interests and powerful land mafias who are trying to buy poor peasants lands for a throw away price and sell them to city dwellers for a sky reaching prices.

All over the state of Tamilnadu, victims who have been displaced because of Special Economic Zones and coastal regulation zone promulgated by the Governments had visited Thervoy Dalit village and have learnt new strategies and methods to sustain struggles for regaining their lost lands using non-violence as a means.

The Social Action groups and NGOs who have been supporting peoples causes which end up in protest and agitations have learnt the simple legal procedures and the ways and means of filing public litigation cases and mobilizing peoples allies to strengthen and continue their agitations in many places pressurising the ruling class to head to their struggles. Media such as daily newspapers in vernacular have started, publicising the Thervoy struggles as important hot news to get mass support for the sale of more newspapers.

The local church which usually stands in the middle supporting powerful elites have seen how the church also could choose sides or options.

12. How have the beneficiaries reacted to the programme activities? What were the impacts of the project and different effects on women and men in the project?

The beneficiaries 6000 Dalits of Thervoy village did not know where to go and what to do, when their 1205 acres of land was taken by force from them. So when the Association for the Rural Poor, which has been well known in the area where the victimisation had taken place, came overwhelmingly to sustain their struggle for social justice and land redemption, welcomed the ARP to advise them to work out strategies to move forward and to be with them with ARP activists and personnel to encourage them in all spheres of activities and offer funds wherever necessary to give them moral and physical support and solidarity to end up with victory.

The first phase of activity (plan of action) itself needed financial support to help the struggling people's morale high. Posters and banners, printing, organising rallies, agitations etc needed money to carry out the campaigns effectively.

During the second phase when the Action Committee of the Dalits for Thervoy land struggles went to represent their grievances to the District Revenue Officials, they wanted to teach them how to speak and how to present their "story" to the officials. So ARP staff including myself had a role play as part of Popular Theatre and magnified to the village youth and action committee as to what they should speak, and who were all to be spokespersons.

During mass processions and Picketing in the Capital,. Police permission from the Law and Order Department was needed. Here also our Association Staff helped them. When Press Conferences were held our Association arranged at ARP's expenses.

In the third phase, we have to borrow money to pay the food and other expenses until we receive WACC second and final instalment of grant.

All these which was offered by the Association for the Rural Poor have been leaving a great impact of the project and had several effects and responses from women and men of the project.

13. Outcome and Outputs of the project: What has your project achieved and what has changed?

If your project produced media, please send a sample copy of audio/video cassettes, CD, VCD, or DVD and label it with title, duration, language used, and date of production. If you can, please send photos with informative captions (digital photos, if possible), newspaper/radio clips, homepage links, etc.

The outputs and the outcome are yet to be analysed and calculated both in qualitative and quantitative terms.

- (a) Peoples attitudes have changed drastically.
- (b) People of Thervoy are no more passive
- (c) They are part of activists who are spearheading the struggles and will lead the struggle further even without others support.
- (d) The achievement have been many. But the total victory lies not only in the hands of these toiling masses of Thervoy village but is the hands of attorney's who handle these tricky case in the Supreme Court with facts and figures and witnesses and evidences including reliable documents.

- The Action Committee which is still fighting the land alienation is still strong and had the grit to prolong the struggle at the grass roots level.
- (e) The struggle in Thervoy of the Dalits fighting for getting their land of 1205 acres has awakened a feeling of confidence to landless peasants and Tribals and fisherfolk who have been victimised by displacement and eviction of their own ancestral lands and a mass movement to save poor people's land from Government which are anti people is emerging. At all India level the Thervoy issue has been highlighted by Governmental NGOs and Women's Liberation Movement. Dalit political parties also have come forward to sustain the struggles.

14. Evaluation

14.1 What were the results of evaluating the project?

Evaluation was done by another NGO well versed with Dalit issues. First of all this project has been different from other caste issues between Dalits and upper caste Hindus. Usually it is not difficult to deal with caste atrocities since there are legislations approved by the Parliament by Several Acts under SC/ST atrocities act of 1976. Therefore any caste discrimination is taken seriously and culprit who is involved is severely punished.

But in this case of Theruvoy Dalit land struggle, a small village of 1400 families standing against the Promulgation of SEZ under Tamilnadu State Industrial Promotional Corporation of Tamilnadu (SIPCOT), is certainly a bold attempt and very challenging since the Government has powerful machinery to crush such agitations against it.

14.2 What were the challenges, difficulties, and/or failures in carrying out the project? Please explain how you addressed these issues.

As an evaluator, it was difficult for me to measure the failures and challenges. The reason is the complication of the project which has not come to an end. Therefore a successful story could not be written. The challenges are how to measure the involvement of the people. Since these thousand people have been playing active role in our agitations or the other. When the questions were asked about the challenges and failures, the people showed the Government as the main enemy which does not budge to their protests in returning these precious lands.

Challenging the power structure such as the legislatures, judiciary and the Executive is not easy. They are the most powerful instruments and those holding on the power join together to support the vested interests. For instance, the Chennai High Court where the Public Litigation was filed on behalf of the affected people, the judgement was just an eye wash, favouring the ruling class in supporting the promulgations of taking peoples land, for building Industrial park.

The judgement was biased and a case of injustice without any leniency towards affected people. The challenged to bring the ruling class and the power elites to a table to speak on social justice became meaningless and unproductive. These frustration over the unfavourable judgement.

Half of the Theruvoy activists and protests have different feelings over the failures. Activists who are highly motivated, especially women were, not willing to accept the failures. They are still strong, very clear about the future course of action and have determined to fight till the end even to the extent of sacrificing their lives. The NGOs around India, the environmental activities such as Madhu

Patkar and Arunthathi Roy, Baba Amte and large section of civil society intelligentsia are fully in support are willing to stand on the side of the people and win a victory.

The Supreme Court attorneys who have taken up the case for final hearing. The panel of Supreme Court Judges are well informed and pressurized by Delhi Activists and the lower court lawyers are giving pressure to end up the judgement in people favour. Everyone is waiting for the judgement from the Supreme Court expecting a Land Mark Judgement. Till, then measuring the success or failure is not reasonable.

People are producing many video clippings, and made short movies and are sought the help of even with United Nations Environmental Committee and several International Organisations to support their struggle in International circles and give wide coverage through their media network.

I will address this issue as a big blunder as the part of the Government in passing the Act of Land Acquisition (waste land) Act in parliament to bring the Special Economic Zone order as part of Privatisation and Globalisation favouring openly the multinationals and this anti people's bill . In spite of land reform act of 1980 which is still in practice, the law of injustice considered unlawful by the majority of landless and poor peasant in India.

15. Other comments, if any.

The only comment that I would make is that I wonder as to how the Action Committee of Theravoy Land Reclamation members would find funds to support their struggles further. Right now it seems that the end is not near. Success might come after self determined struggle.

Therefore mobilising funds beyond 2010 is something that Theravoy land struggle committee has to search for. The Association for the Rural Poor has assured of more flowing of funds. There are a few friends of Theravoy people, a few voluntary organisation and women's network would offer small funds now and then. But to pay for the attorneys other legal matters they need funds.

16. Name of the person submitting the report: Rev. Dr. Felix N. Sugirtharaj

Position: Hony. Secretary

Date:31/08/2010

Signature: