



Dining for Women

Program Fact Sheet

Program: Center for Women's Development and Research (CWDR) Tsunami Rehabilitation Work

Web Site: <http://www.cwdr.org.in/> Web Site for Center for Women's Development & Research
<http://www.globalgiving.com/pr/1000/proj1000a.html> Web Site for CWDR through Global Giving

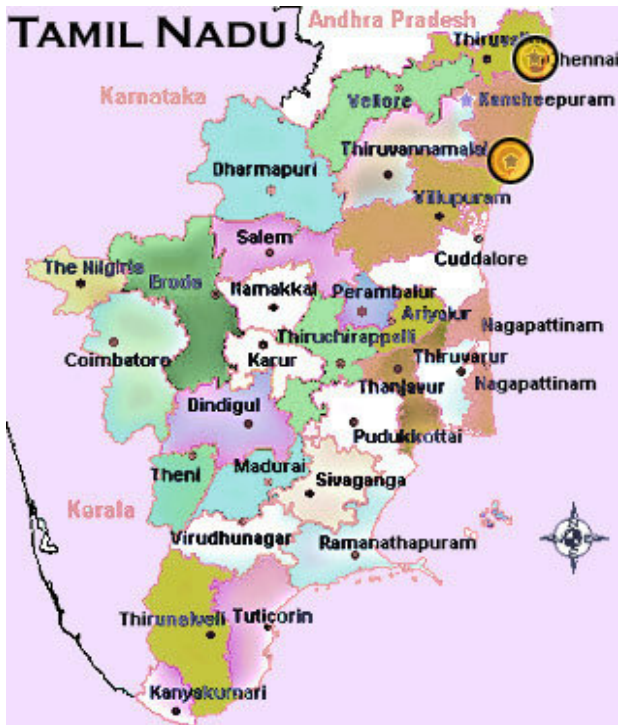
Mission: Facilitating a women's movement to achieve human rights for women. The Center also works with women affected by the December 26, 2004 Tsunami, training them for vocations and enabling them to become self-sufficient members of their communities.

Where They Work: India (Tamil Nadu)



The Indus Valley civilization is one of the oldest in the world, dating back at least 5,000 years. The capital is New Delhi and the country operates with a federal republic government. India is divided into 28 states and seven union territories. As of July 1996, the estimated country population was 1,095,351,995. Despite impressive gains in economic investment and output, India faces pressing problems such as the ongoing dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, massive overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and ethnic and religious strife. (Note: 77,200 refugees from Tibet live in India.)

Dining for Women is supporting a nongovernmental organization working in Tamil Nadu, one of India's states.



Tamil Nadu, the southern-most state of India, is on the shores of the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. The state's population is over 55 million. Although Tamil Nadu is one of the most urbanized states in India, though it is still primarily rural. Most people live in more than 64,000 villages. The caste system is still strong, even though discrimination has been banned by the constitution of India. The main religion is Hinduism. Most people work in agriculture with the main crops including rice, pulses, oil seeds, sugar cane, cotton, tea, rubber, cashews and coconuts. Tamil Nadu is rich in handicrafts; handloom silk, metal and leather work, kalamkari (hand-painted fabric), and carved wood. Main exports include leather and cotton goods, yarn, tea, coffee, spices, handicrafts and black granite. The climate is tropical with little difference in temperatures in summer and winter.

Immediately after the Tsunami tidal wave on 26th December 2004, the Center for Women's Development and Research started relief and rehabilitation work among coastal fishing villages and in Chennai, where the Center is headquartered and where their programs were already established. To help us understand the effects of the Tsunami, the Government of India, provides the following statistics:

- 12,405 number of fatalities
- 5,640 number of people missing
- 647,599 number of displaced people
- 75 % of the fatalities were women and children
- 787 became widows and 480 children were orphaned
- 1,089 (est.) villages were damaged
- 730,000 (est.) people were forced to leave their homes
- \$2.56 billion is the estimated total damage

History of the Center for Women's Development and Research (CWDR):

The Center for Women's Development and Research was initiated during 1993 by a group of women activists living in Chennai, in the state of Tamil Nadu. They found that only 2% of the nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) were headed by women and they felt a need for more women led organizations in order to better address women's issues. Before the Tsunami, the CWDR worked within 95 slums of Chennai city and 7 villages of Edaikazhinadu Panchayath Kancheepuram district.

Following the December 2004 Tsunami, the CWDR originated programs to help nearly 3,500 families living in 11 villages, all in areas served by the Center. Following their initial program success, the CWDR further expanded their vocational training programs to serve forty women's groups along the coast, all affected by the Tsunami. Each of these groups has 20 to 25 members and one to three leaders. The leaders receive vocational training at the home office in Chennai, then return to implement and run trainings for their group members. To date, the project has provided rehabilitation services to 250 affected women and nearly 1,000 girls.

"Women are more vulnerable to disasters through their socially constricted roles, because they have less access to resources and are victims of the general divisions of labor and they are the primary caregivers to children, the elderly and disabled. This means they are less able to mobilize resources for rehabilitation, more likely to be unemployed following the disaster and over burdened with domestic responsibilities leaving them with less freedom to pursue sources of income. It is most often women and adolescent girls that go without food in order to feed their families. Recognizing the important role that gender plays in disaster management and relief it is alarming that gender concerns often get pushed to the background in the relief and rehabilitation work after disasters."

The Project: Tsunami Rehabilitation Work

The Tsunami Rehabilitation Work project was designed to create alternative livelihood sources for women affected by the Tsunami and to provide psychosocial counseling for children, adolescent girls and women.

The project is creating alternative livelihood opportunities for women through vocational training and loans to start their own businesses. The CWDR is improving the health and income for women and children and they believe that these positive changes will alter the perceptions and positions of women in the society.

The main objectives of the project include:

- To provide psychosocial counseling for children and women affected by the Tsunami
- To create alternative livelihoods for women
- To provide alternative vocational training and life educations for adolescent girls
- To provide supplementary nutrition for children
- To initiate and strengthen the village level women's organizations.

***Dining for Women* is directing our March donations specifically to the alternative vocational skill training for adolescent girls and income generating programs for women.**

Within these programs, the Center for Women's Development and Research has identified certain skills and local level income generation activities pertinent to the villages; including coir making, coconut leaf weaving for thatch roofs, food processing, vermin compost making, the production of palm tree products, soap making, raising trees in nurseries, and dress making. Some of the training received in the city areas includes screen-printing, paper bag making, shoe upper making, and making washing powder. Two hundred and fifty women and one hundred and fifty adolescent girls have already been trained in these skills and the programs are now being expanded to reach even more women and girls.

Following the training, the CWDR helps the women produce and market their goods. Loans are provided so they can start their own businesses. All of the products made by these women can be marketed locally. Additionally, plans include raising 10,000 seedlings of *Jatropha* and *Illupai*. From these tree seeds, the women can extract non-edible oil that can be used in bio-diesel and soap making. These seedlings are distributed to all the villages so they can plant them as fencing plants. Fruits and vegetable plants are distributed for kitchen gardens. These activities also serve as occupational therapy, as growing living things from the seeds gives many hope for the future.

How the CWDR Measures Program Success:

- Through the numbers of women attending the alternative vocational skill trainings and the number of women utilizing their learned skill to earn income.
- Measuring women's income levels.
- Through the change in women's status in the community; their representation in the village organizations and in the village level rehabilitation committees.

Financial Profile:

Our gifts are directed to the Center for Women's Development and Research through Global Giving, a United States based nonprofit organization. Global Giving requires 10% of donations for their own administrative functions. The Center for Women's Development and Research directs 100% of all donations received through Global Giving to programs. Thus, 90 % of ***Dining for Women*** donations directly support the women and children participating in the program. According to the latest budget, the CWDR Tsunami Project operating expenses total \$78,373.

Dining for Women Giving History with Program: New program

Sources:

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/> <http://www.cs.utk.edu/~siddhart/tamilnadu/MAP/latest.gif>
<http://www.indianbusiness.nic.in/indian-states/tamilnadu/general.htm> <http://www.tsunamispecialenvoy.org/country/india.asp>
<http://www.tamilnadutourism.org/places/citiestowns/images/map.jpg>
http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/statistics/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_IND.html