

PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

Annual Report 1995 -- 96

Friends,

We have great pleasure in presenting the annual report of PCO, for the period from August 1995 to July 1996. The year started with reflections and serious discussions on changes in the structure and form of the organisation. The thoughts on restructuring of the organisation should be seen as indicators of the increasing complexities and responsibilities vested with PCO. These discussions enabled us to understand the limitations as well as the merits of the existing structure.

Some changes were inevitable. The re-organisation of the sub-committees into three viz. village development activity, training and research was done as a part of this process. The advisory committee members were given the option to join any of these committees according to their interest. The 'Shramasakthi' which was functioning as part of the development alternative programme of PCO was granted more autonomy in order to become self reliant on a time bound basis. The role of each community organiser, in terms of the area of operation, was also revised, with more responsibility of a specific village. This was done after considering the emerging complex situation and problems at grass root level. A centralised area meeting is also conducted now once in a month. The fishworkers and youth training programmes resumed this year and two full time community organisers were given the full responsibility to organise and coordinate it. The continued support and cooperation given by some full time members who left the organisation from day to day activities, gives us much hope.

The training programme had to be postponed for some time as an evaluation was being done on PCO's fishermen and youth train-

ing. But as the evaluation report was lacking any concrete suggestions on training programmes, fish workers and youths in the coastal area were contacted in person by the training personnel and their opinions and suggestions were sought. The details thus collected were discussed in the training sub-committee and then training programmes for the ensuing one year was planned.

FISHERIES SECTOR

The continued presence of vested interest groups in the fisheries sector is threatening its survival. The ill effects of wrong development efforts viz growing unemployment, loss of work and opportunities and depletion of fish resources are still prevailing in the sector. The move of merchant capitalists and other powerful commercial interest groups to encroach the coastal areas in the name of tourism and aquaculture should be opposed at all costs. The awareness programmes organised by PCO against anti-people projects, like Vizhinjam Commercial Harbour, will have to be continued. It is of course encouraging that the movement of the fisher people against the entry of large foreign fishing vessels and for cancellation of all licences issued to such vessels in the context of the new economic policy, is continuing as a strong force. It is strange that in Kerala the row over monsoon trawling ban is still continuing, even after several expert committees studied the issue and submitted various management measures. The growing mishaps and loss of lives at sea in the recent past, especially among the artisanal fishermen, has to be viewed as signs of loosing skills and traditional knowledge systems after the advent of modernisation in the sector. The cooperation extended by the Government and NGOs in the workshop on "Safety at Sea and Rescue

Operations", and the funding support extended by the fisheries department for artificial reef programme are encouraging and can be seen as a recognition of our views and activities.

The growing financial burden faced by the motorised units as a result of hike in price, scarcity of fuel and decline in the availability of Oil Sardine locally known as 'makkale potti' (foster of children) which was available in abundant quantity are only few examples of the problems faced by fishworkers at macro and micro levels.

The added responsibilities in these context and recognising our own limitations, we are presenting the report of our activities for the year 1995-96 with the hope of evolving appropriate and more realistic future courses of action.

1.0 GRASS ROOT ACTIVITIES

1.1 Village-level Joint Committees

It was about two years ago, the village-level joint committees were formed with the objectives of ensuring people's participation in local issues, developing leadership skills and to helping the people's organisations to become more self reliant. Efforts are made to make the function of Joint Committees well in Thumba, Veli, Poonthura, Vizhinjam, Adimalathura, Pulluvila and Poovar. The main activities were centred around mobilisation of people to pressurise the concerned authorities for social amenities like primary health centre, drainage, road, community latrine, construction of sea wall, public water taps, public wells, local educational institutions (mainly schools), sewage & sanitation canals etc. The joint committee at Poonthura took the responsibility of running one community latrine and maintain it with people's participation. In the same village, strengthening of the existing sea

wall and getting a new drinking water tap were also achieved by the joint committee. At Vizhinjam, after studying the pitiable condition of the local school run by the Church, the Committee managed to convince the parish committee and as a result, the repair works have started. Since there are no community latrines in this village, the joint committee gave representations to the District Collector to provide some space for constructing it. The committee members actively cooperated in the cleanliness drive of health centre and public bathing area. The joint committee at Adimalathura succeeded in bringing the Director of Fisheries to visit their village and he has promised to provide funding support for Artificial Reef Programme at Adimalalthura. Respresentations were given to repair the dilapidated road and drainage canals of the village, and the committee is hopeful of achieving something soon. The involvement of community organisers help the people to analyse the local issues and interact with the representatives of various organisations for the formation of a full-fledged development committee and also influence newspaper/media circles to get sufficient coverage for the serious local issues.

The joint committee collaborated with CMFRI when Adimalathura fishing village was selected for oyster culture, but subsequently had to withdraw by realising the technical problems relating to its viability. The spreading of malaria epidemic in Valiathura coastal region this year caused the death of 8 persons. More than 1000 people are affected by it. In the awareness programme organised in connection with malaria eradication, PCO also collaborated along with various organisations.

Housing and latrine construction programmes of PCO are implemented under the auspices of the Joint Committees in various

villages. The joint committees also took the lead role at the local level in mobilising people for struggles and protests against fishing by foreign vessels in the Indian waters. The joint committees also organised discussions on contemporary regional issues through decentralised training approach. The issues relating to the topics such as deep sea fishing, mishaps at sea and rescue operations, Vizhinjam Commercial Harbour Project, Thermal Power Plant Project etc. were discussed in this way.

1.2 Women's Activities

The mahilasamajams (Women's groups) of fish vendors and self-employed women are functioning in 16 villages. The local issues, contemporary issues, issues in the labour sector and day to day life problems are discussed in samajams and interventions are also made wherever possible. The issues such as problems faced by women in fish markets, deep sea fishing, savings-cum-relief schemes, Panchayat Raj, atrocities against women, alcoholism, health problems, women and political power, Vizhinjam commercial harbour project, hygiene etc. were discussed.

The Women's joint committee at district level was active this year too, especially for fostering leadership skills among women. But some problems arose in the follow up of discussions taken at the district level joint committee and it has affected further meetings. Any how, the activists are now taking steps to correct it and continue this meeting again at least once in two months. The activities of Mahila Samajams will be coordinated and evaluated by the district level joint committee. In fact, the district level leadership has grown to coordinate these activities to some extent. Miserable conditions in fish markets, women's day, special bus for fisher women, atrocities against women, alcoholism etc. were the major issues and topics dealt with by them.

When the Trivandrum Municipal Corporation tried to evacuate the fisher women from their road side vending places, as part of the city beautification drive, they got together and strongly reacted by entering and disrupting the functioning of corporation office. These road sides were being used by the fisherwomen for the past 20 years and finally the local authority agreed not to prevent them until alternate space is provided. The search for permanent spaces for fish vending has already begun.

The pitiable and substandard condition of buses run by Matsyafed for women fish vendors of vizhinjam and Veli villages were brought to the notice of higher officials by the women. They met the officials in charge of this in person and got an assurance that either proper repairs will be made or new buses will be made available.

The women also cooperated with the effective implementation of arrack ban imposed by the State government and hope that it will at least lessen atrocities and violence against women. Each Mahila Samajams wrote and demanded the new government to continue with arrack prohibition.

The women strongly reacted against the growing sexual harassment and injustice meted out to women all over Kerala and particularly in coastal areas. Together with condemning two cases of sexual violence against women in Valiyathura and Puthiyathura villages, they also organised protest rallies to arrest and punish the culprits. PCO also collaborated with joint efforts of various socio-cultural organisations in forming a 'Friendship Committee' to identify the anti-social forces working behind such increasing violence and to organise awareness programmes. PCO also actively participated in the 'human chain' organised along the 70km coastline from Pozhiyoor to Kayikkara in Trivandrum district to build up

consciousness to foster communal harmony and peace.

PCO women activists cooperated with the 'Kerala Stree Vedi' which was newly formed to bring together various autonomous women's groups in the State into one forum. Our women from the Mahilasamajams also actively participated in the protest rally and 'satyagraha' organised by this forum in connection with the incident of raping a girl at Suryanelli.

1.2.1 Economic Programmes for Women

The Mahila Samajams are giving special attention to make the economic programmes more efficient in Pulluvila, Adimalathura, Vizhinjam and Thumba villages. But certain activities started earlier could not be continued due to some reasons. Poultry farming had to be abandoned due to feasibility problems. But sheep growing, ironing etc. are being continued. As women are more and more forced to bear the economic burden of the family, as a result of under-employment among men due to fall in fish catches, the women look forward to the samajams to run income generating programmes. If the present economic programmes such as mortgaging of coconut trees, loans for fish marketing, saving schemes etc. are effectively managed and new appropriate programmes are chalked out, we hope that these samajams could become self sufficient within 5 years. Thus, by running such small economic programmes, these Samajams could improve their efficiency and become a model for others.

1.2.2. Women's Day

On 8th March, during the international women's day celebrations, 'Kerala Stree Vedi' organised a silent dharna for five minutes in front of the Government Secretariat as a part of the call given by the National Women's

Commission and our Samajam women also participated in it. The theme of the day was "Women against violence" and it got very good public attention. Women's day was also celebrated at regional levels in Pulluvila, Poonthura and Anjengo. Various issues faced by women were raised in the rally, particularly demanding total prohibition. To make people aware of the issues, various cultural programmes were also performed. In some places poster exhibitions and discussions were organised.

1.2.3. Girls' Groups

Girls groups are functioning in Pulluvila, Adimalathura, Vizhinjam and Anjengo under the auspices of Mahila Samajams. In the meetings held once in a week, 15 to 25 girls are participating. The main problems faced by them are the growing unemployment and increasing atrocities on girls. Their coming together and sharing of experiences in a way help them to understand that these problems are not personal and it has commonalities, and so they have to collectively tackle it too. So they discuss various strategies of action programmes also in their meetings. They are also threatened by the ill effects of the growth of commercial tourism all along our beaches. It is necessary to realise these issues and take remedial and precautionary measures to protect the girls.

1.2.4. Children's Groups

This year also, one vacation camp was conducted for the children from different villages to develop their personalities and for sharing and mutual learning from their life experiences. This camp in which 40 children and 8 teachers from 21 children's groups participated had many new features. A session was conducted on the spread of epidemics in the coastal areas and the precautions to be taken. Story

telling, singing, acting and collection of various things were the medium mainly used at this camp. 3 camps were conducted for the teachers of children's groups. This training programme was intended for equipping the teachers to promote the talents of the children in a creative manner and also to promote the organisational perspectives among Mahila Samajam workers. A special feature of the training conducted this year was that the subjects to be presented in the childrens groups were prepared by the teachers themselves during the training programme, and were presented for evaluation and feedback. They also got more practical training on how to produce teaching materials based on the ideas generated through discussions. Along with subjects prescribed by the syllabi, attention was given to other topics viz story telling, songs, educational games, science experiments etc. In the context of communal clashes, which also wounds the minds of growing children, the teachers discussed about formulating programmes to develop the values of communal harmony and universal brotherhood among the new generation. Apart from PCO full timers, Sr. Elsy Mathew and Sr. Theramma Prayikkalam also cooperated in this training by helping teachers for more creative presentations of subject.

1.2.5. Vacation Tuition Programme

Many children of our coastal area depend on Government schools for their education. It is a fact that these children are backward in studies and many of them cannot properly read or write even after passing S.S.L.C. examination. The all promotion policy and defective education system are the main reasons for this. In order to provide basic education to the children PCO organised vacation tuition programmes in some villages since 1983. But when other organisations came forward with

more emphasis on tuition programmes, PCO withdrew from this. Now, as many of these organisations stopped the tuition centres, parents of these children who cannot afford private tuition approached PCO and as a result of that at three villages vacation tuition homes are opened again. Teachers' training programme was conducted for the 30 youths selected from these villages by the joint committees. The children studying from standard 1 to 7 are included in the tuition programme.

The main subject taught were reading and writing of mother tongue- Malayalam, English alphabets and basic mathematics. The topics were dealt in a simple manner using various mediam. Nearly 850 children attended this programme organised in Vizhinjam school, Valiyaveli 'Sagara Theeram' and Poothura church. Apart from the training given by PCO, the teachers also meet at the end of every week for evaluation and planning. As an encouragement for this voluntary service, an excursion was organised for these young teachers.

2.0. TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The training programme had to be postponed for some time for want of evaluation regarding the fishermen and youth training of the PCO. But the evaluation report was lacking any concrete suggestions on training programme. So, fish workers and youths in the coastal area were contacted in person, and collected details regarding the importance and inputs of training programme. The details thus collected were discussed in the training sub committee and has given shape to the training programme for the ensuring one year.

The youth has expressed that they have gained the ability to respond to the social issues and their life style has been attuned to the social commitment through youth training programmes. Immediately after the training, the

youth are ready for social action but when they return to their village, their energy (enthusiasm) is drained out. So there were suggestions for such trainings to avoid such a situation. If state level trainings are organised, the participants can easily understand the diverse issues, problems and life style of different parts of Kerala and they can frame a broad vision. Activists in other organisations, socio-cultural activists in the village, people of different caste and religion may be included in our trainings. The youth should be equipped to overcome their own problems. The subjects of the training should be in a way to lead the youth for social action after the training. The trainings will be effective if it is participatory training instead of lecture trainings. More awareness classes on village issues should be conducted. Scientific method for personality development skills also to be included. Importance should be given to the living-together camps. Value based training models also to be evolved. At the end of the training action plan have to be evolved. Village youth may be given chances to interact with PCO and thereby to get efficiency for social action. There were suggestions that there should be regular contacts with the youths who have completed training and a resource team should be formed for conducting action plan, get together and studies etc.

2.1. Youth Training and Organisational Activities

As part of village level activities, the youth groups are working actively in Thumba, Veli, Poonthura, Adimalathura and Pulluvila. The regular meetings of the youth groups paved the way for intervening in local issues, especially in the fisheries sector. The youth groups could present the contemporary issues through street play. An one day seminar was organised for a select group of 40 from villages on a regional basis. In this seminar, discussion

was mainly centred around the consequences of proposed Vizhinjam commercial harbour project.

The activists meet together on every Thursdays and share the activities to plan their future programmes. The area meetings held at village level is now centralised and apart from full timers in PCO, Messrs. T. Peter, Jerome Fernandez, Mercy Alexander, Fresca Kurisappan, Mary Hermin, Medona Jackson, Lilly, Sathy, Sophy, Pushparani, Sr. Rose and Sr. Elsy also participate. In the first Thursdays, classes on contemporary issues are held for PCO activists and friends. The topics covered were Fish cultivation, Fishworkers Co-operative Society, Panchayati Raj, Marine Environment, Vizhinjam Commercial Harbour Project etc.

In the vacation tuition programmes organised in villages, members of youth groups served as teachers on voluntary basis. In Poovar village, youth assembled together and future activities are being formulated with the cooperation of Loyola project.

2.2. Women's Training Programmes

In order to strengthen samajam activities, it is necessary to give them necessary awareness and training. They have to be equipped to respond to the changing socio-economic and political scenario. An one day seminar was organised for the elected members of samajams. A seminar on 'Women and Power' was organised for the women with a view to make them better understand the responsibilities of the newly elected members of the Panchayats and how to collaborate with them in development activities. About 75 persons participated in it. It is expected that the practical training given through 'role play' will help to improve the efficiency of the Mahilasamajam. As a beginning of the bi-

monthly training for the women's joint committee at district level, a government official took a session on the on-going social welfare schemes of govt and procedures to make use of it. This training aims at building up of leadership qualities and efficiency of the joint committees.

A training of one week duration was organised for samajam activists on how to run the day to day activities of samajams. The main topics were Fisheries Sector Analysis, Conservation of Coastal Environment, Women Issues, Organisational Management, Values etc. This training programmes helped to equip women to creatively intervene on issues in the villages, more positive interest in mobilisation of people around issues. By realising the drawbacks of not convening regional training programmes, it was decided to have such training also in the coming years.

In the present context of increasing violence on women, unemployment, anti social elements involved in blue film production, aids etc, working with the marginalised women and girls is gaining more importance.

2.3. Fishworkers Training

In the one day seminar organised at regional level for the fishworkers, not less than 50 people participated. The incomplete Vizhinjam fishing harbour, which is now the major centre of traditional fishing for the fishermen of Trivandrum district will be soon deprived to them. The approval given by government for converting Vizhinjam into a commercial port is seen as an indicator to this. The seminars enabled to understand the consequences of this. PCO resumed the centralised training programme which was discontinued last year. As a first step of the centralised training programme, a seminar was organised in which 55 selected fishworkers participated. Apart

from selecting suitable fishworkers, the suggestions emerged from the seminar enabled to give final shape to training programmes. The topics-Coastal Health and Welfare Schemes of Matsyafed - were presented in the two day seminars in last two months. More than 40 fishworkers participated in this programme. Along with presentation of topics, programmes to develop the talents of women fishworkers were also conducted.

Kerala Fisheries Society organised an one day seminar on "Mishaps at Sea and Rescue Operations" and the recommendations emerged from the seminar were subjected to discussions at village level. PCO is also involved in the people's rescue committee formed in Pulluvila village. A seminar was organised with the involvement of fish workers and social workers regarding the consequences of Vizhinjam development scheme and follow up action is planned.

3.0. ALTERNATE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

3.1. Housing and allied activities

The housing scheme for fishermen implemented by the PCO with the financial support of HDFC and Misereor is in the final stage. This programmes is implemented under the leadership of the people's committee elected locally. The construction of houses is being done under the management of Sramasakthi. Out of the target for constructing 75 houses, construction of 52 houses already completed. The construction of 16 houses is progressing; but due to technical reasons the construction could not be completed within the time fixed. Though the rise in price of housing materials has resulted in difficulties to complete the construction within the estimated cost, with the increase of beneficiary contribution and also their self employed labour the work could be

completed with in the estimated cost. Through the housing scheme of PCO, the children of fishermen get training in this field. Construction work of individuals and other organisations are undertaken by them and as a result of this, work days could be increased. We can see that the improvement in the quality of the construction work of his team is very encouraging.

Although during the last year the working of the fero-cement team was in crisis, this year, with the appointment of 6 trained persons, fero cement modules for the artificial reef programme implemented by the joint effort PCO and fisheries dept. it could be completed. Besides, roof and doors for the latrines at Vizhinjam and Pallithura could be constructed and attempts are being made to start some other new experiments. There are 28 persons, working in Sramasakthi consisting 24 Labourers, 2 Supervisors 1 Office Secretary and 1 supervisor who is in charge of stock and materials. This year the team could create 2722 work days.

As mentioned in the last year's report, an evaluation could be conducted regarding the working of the Sramasakthi functioning with the involvement of fishworkers movement. Through this evaluation, suggestions evolved that the Sramasakthi has to achieve self sufficiency in its working, training quality etc. the working of Sramasakthi should be made independent and accepting these suggestions completely, Sramasakthi is functioning with autonomy under the control of a working committee.

3.2. Artificial Reef Programme (ARP)

The success of artificial reef programme in Pozhiyoor and other villages, the role played by PCO in this programme, and the findings of the studies conducted by PCO got a good

amount of attention from the government and media. The government also volunteered to implement ARP in more villages in collaboration with PCO and funds were allotted through the Department of Fisheries. Accordingly, this programme is being implemented in Thumba and Valiyathura villages. Of the 100 modules built by 'Sramasakthi' for two villages, 30 were placed in Thumba coastal waters and 20 more will be placed during the next season. Attempts are being made to place 50 modules at Valiyathura.

3.3. Sanitary Health Management Schemes

In Pulluvila, the sewage treatment with the help of water plants in the women's community latrine is a success to some extent. We are unable to achieve perfection at this stage. A programme like this can be taken up in the future only if it is affordable for common people apart from its success in environment protection and technical perfection. Still, in areas where ground water table is quite high, this method helps to protect the water from contamination and pollution, thus preventing epidemics being spread through water.

In order to dilute the sewage, waste water from bath rooms is mixed in this method. The treated water is used now for watering the jasmine and plantain trees, instead of reuse in the latrines as done earlier. A micro-biology laboratory has been set up to measure the quality of the water obtained in this process and also to test the water samples of publicwells at Pulluvila. To learn more technical details of laboratory experiments and to impart necessary training for the team, the ITDG has made a contract with Bio Technology Department of Kerala University. As per this contract, Dr. Thankamony, Head of the Bio Technology Department, Kerala University has been pro-

viding necessary guidance and supervision for experiments, research and training including laboratory tests.

By realising the limitations in treating the sewage through the tanks containing water plants, compost toilet was constructed as an alternative experiment and the same is being subjected to observation. The experiments at Pulluvila proved that the sewage can be converted into compost through organic process, if precautions are made to prevent water content. As the compost toilet experiment is proved to be a success, 6 families in the village came forward to have it in their houses, apart from 4 compost toilets already constructed. In water logged areas, especially in coastal side, where there is scarcity of water the compost toilets are very suitable. The compost toilet do not have foul smell and through organic process the sewage is converted into manure which can be used for agriculture. A bit notice is being prepared by the team highlighting the merits of compost toilet in order to make the people and government agencies better aware of it. A village map was also prepared recording the density of population, water logged area, open defecating public places, wells, water pipes, public pathway, institutions etc. A survey of hygiene practices was conducted to study matters relating to sanitary management, the process of collection and preservation of water, etc. An one day survey on the use pattern of community latrine was also conducted to study the rate of use and allied matters relating to the public latrine functioning under the supervision of samajam.

As a part of conducting experiments regarding the process of purifying drinking water, drinking water pot was developed in such a way that water is allowed to pass through 3 pots connected together and each pot was filled with carbon and sand separately and the qual-

ity of water got out of this process is being studied. Taking of drinking water from vessels by dipping hand causes hygienic problems and so the process of collecting and using water in earthen pots are being practised among the village people.

The income from plantain cultivation and jasmine garden goes to the women's samajam. Besides exhibiting a map at the main entrance showing the plan and elevation of the site, attempts are also being made to beautify the site. With the help of rain gauge installed in the area, the rain and water collection is measured.

In order to cultivate good hygienic habits among the children of Pulluvila, classes are conducted in 7 nursery schools on health and sanitation. Besides this, meetings are convened in each month for nursery teachers on activities relating to management of sanitation. With the help of this forum, meetings are also organised for the mothers of nursery children.

Attempts are also made to develop the vermi filtering process to treat the sewage water through organic process, using soils having earth worms. As a part of this scheme, a team from PCO visited the India Aluminium Company at Belgaum in Karnataka State and started experiments relating to vermi filtering. Apart from the experiments, preliminary steps for producing vermi castings has also been started in Pulluvila.

Some government organisation has come forward to construct pit latrines which was found by the team most unsuitable to coastal areas. In that context, a survey was conducted on pit latrines in the village and the health problems involved in it. Awareness programmes on sanitary health management were organised in cooperation with Socio Economic Unit (SEU) of State Government.

3.4 John Fernandez Memorial

A memorial committee was formed in the name of former Co-ordinator of PCO Sri. John Fernandez. The committee consists of representatives of various organisations and friends. It was decided to constitute a fund for the scholarship scheme for the students from coastal area. The first commemoration function was held at Bank Employees Union Hall on 12th of Sep. '95. It started with the memorial functions by Fr. James Culas. Sri. Michael Tharakan has delivered the memorial talk on "Search for the land of Peace", which elaborated the issues on development and ecological problems. Smt. Sugathakumari and Sri. K.V. Surendranath participated. Prizes were given to the winners of John Fernandez Memorial Quiz and Essay Competition conducted for the High School Students and the Youths of the coastal area.

4. ACTIVITIES IN ERNAKULAM DISTRICT

The PCO activities in Chellanam Panchayat of Ernakulam district till last year (1994-95) was extended to other areas of Ernakulam District also from this year. To ensure the effective management of fisheries in this district, it is desirable to plan development activities with a more comprehensive perspective. The diligence and unity of fish workers are inevitable for this. In the fast changing socio-economic situation, subsistence of the workers in the fisheries sector like other traditional sectors are under threat. In this context, activities of PCO are gaining importance in places like Ernakulam District where both marine and inland fisheries do have almost equal importance.

4.1. Women's Activities

Much emphasis is given to organise the

women involved in fish marketing, drying, processing, fish packing and mussel collection, etc. In Alleppey and Ernakulam Districts activities are undertaken through 'Theera Desa Mahila Vedi' (coastal fisher women forum). In various villages of the area, the forum is strengthened by forming village units. In Ernakulam District, the branches of this forum are working in 5 villages. Attempts are also going on in other districts to form the unit of the forum. Grassroot level units of the forum conduct area level meetings twice in a year and centralised meeting at least once in a year. The elected committee from the forum supervise the various functions of it.

Apart from dealing with labour issues, the group is also working to make avail to fisherwomen all benefits and social welfare measures given by the government to fishermen only. In the last general election, the forum prepared a charter of demands and in order to attract the attention of candidates and the general public, propaganda were made through posters and notices. We also participate in the meetings of SEWA Committee, helping them in planning and training of activities and organising grass root level meetings.

The international women's day was celebrated at Azheekkal seashore considering the convenience of women fishworkers. The day was observed as anti-liquor day as the women worst suffered from it's ill effects. A rally and public function was organised in which hundreds of women took part. In Azheekkal area, this is the first public function organised under the exclusive leadership of women and this enabled them to acquire self confidence and also lauded by the men leaders of the movement. PCO has also been taking active role to form the units of 'Kerala Stree Vedi' in this area and follow up activities.

4.2. Awareness programme for women fishworkers in the shrimp processing factories

As a result of the socio-economic pressures brought out by the changes in technologies in the fisheries sector and general price rise, women were forced to seek new employment opportunities in other areas. The increasing number of women working in shrimp processing factories in Kerala and other States prove this. Apart from the pitiable and exploitative living and working conditions, these young girls and women suffer mentally too being far away from their homes. In order to help them to liberate from the clutches of these exploiting forces and to improve their working conditions, awareness programmes are being conducted.

4.3. Panchayath Women's Group

A permanent forum of elected women representatives from local bodies has started functioning in February 1996. Two from the Corporation and 11 from panchayats, of both inland and marine fishing areas of Ernakulam district, are covered in this forum. Even though the present Panchayat Raj Rule guarantee one-third reservation to women, many of the women do not have much exposure to political aspects and organisational activities. The panchayath women's forum is formed with a view to give training for more creative involvement in the panchayat governing body, understanding the role of panchayats in local development and how best to relate with people above petty party politics etc. In this way the women members find this forum very useful. In the meetings held by the forum once in two months, the problems in fisheries sector, working of the government departments connected with the activities of fisheries sector, coastal health programme, problems of women, coastal management, etc. were discussed. The

formation of a women cell in the respective regions in order to solve the women's issues within the jurisdiction of each member of the panchayath is also under consideration.

4.4. Self-help group

The main problems faced by the women fish workers is their dependence on money lenders who charge high rate of interest. In order to release them from the indebtedness, self help groups were started in two fisherwomen units of the forum with the financial support of NABARD. One of this group is functioning very well and seven women from this group got financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per beneficiary.

In Chellanam, the support given to the 6 women engaged in coir making with the financial support of SEWA is still continuing. Attempts are also made to start other alternate means of employment.

4.5. Involvement in Environmental Study on Wetland

The usage of wetland for intensive shrimp farming should be seen as a lopsided development activity which will create not only environmental hazards but also displacement of traditional communities from their source of livelihood. As a result of human interference, the wetland of greater environmental importance are disappearing. It is in this context we decided to conduct a study on the wetland in Chellanam panchayath. As a first step, a preliminary enquiry was completed with the assistance of Fisheries Research Cell and the report is being prepared.

PCO is also working in close cooperation with other like minded organisations in the efforts to make people aware of the consequences of projects like 'Goshree' and 'Satellite City'.

4.6. Activities in Northern Districts

In Kannur and Kasaragode districts activities like shrimp culture and large-scale tourism projects are on the increase. These two activities are centred around coast, backwaters and other water bodies. Some contacts are initiated here as these activities adversely affect the common people. We are planning of collaborating with some local active organisations for more creative involvement and speedy intervention on these issues.

5. FISHERIES RESEARCH CELL

For the 3 years from 1995-96 to 1997-98, Fisheries Research Cell (FRC) planned to undertake mainly two broad based studies - Study on Artificial Reef Programme and Study on Causes and consequences of Fishing Community's backwardness. Apart from these major studies, short-term studies on emerging local issues were also planned. The main activities of the Research Cell for the last one year (1995-96) is given below.

5.1. Studies and Dissemination

- i) The second phase of the 3 year Study on Artificial Reef Programme, carried out jointly by the Research Cell and Department of Fisheries (DoF), is completed and a draft report was prepared by consolidating the data collected in previous years.

A Video document in Malayalam entitled "Artificial Reefs - the Expectations from Pozhiyoor" which included under water videography done by two scientists from Southampton University in January 1995 was exhibited in various villages. Along with the study on artificial reef, discussions on renewal and management of artificial reefs were arranged with

the participation of fish workers of Pozhiyoor and FRC also took an active role in the renewal process of reef. Discussions were also initiated at various levels on Artificial Reef Programme to be implemented jointly by DoF and PCO in Thumba and Valiyathura. The study findings and documents of Research Cell were used in these discussions.

- (ii) A plan for 3 year broad based study on fishing community's backwardness was chalked out and preliminary steps also were taken. The three member study team had contacted few research organisations and experts to discuss and evolve a suitable methodology. As part of framing the study perspective, a lecture class of Dr. Gabriele Dietrich on "Caste Contradictions and Backwardness" was organised in PCO for the activists and interested friends. As a first step of the study, Research Associate was appointed temporarily for collection and review of related literature on the topic. Apart from preparing a glossary of the literature on the subject, a draft report of the lectures of Smt. Gabriele and Sri. Sarad Patil (lectures conducted in previous years) was also prepared.

But due to non-availability of competent persons with enough experience and research skills as expected earlier and more than that because of lack of funding support for such a large scale study this could not be pursued.

- (iii) In view of the growing conflict and tension among the traditional fishermen themselves with regard to the use of Fish Attracting Lanterns (FAL) in the coastal villages of Trivandrum, a preliminary study was undertaken and subsequently an one day workshop on the topic was

organised. The proceedings of the workshop was prepared and sent to village level workers and representatives of fishworkers. The study report, prepared in Malayalam and English are kept in FRC for reference. It is proposed to continue this study in the ensuing year.

- (iv) FRC cooperated in the preliminary study of wetland in Chellanam panchayath undertaken by Kochi Team of PCO and a draft report was prepared.
- (v) A short report on Ringseine Fishing was prepared in Malayalam incorporating the information gathered about it in previous years and is kept as reference document.
- (vi) FRC undertook the organisational responsibility of Fisheries Session of the Second Congress on Traditional Sciences and Technologies in India (CTSTI) held at Madras which was co-sponsored by PPST Foundation and Anna University.
- (vii) FRC also associated with the Kerala Fisheries Society to organise seminars and discussions on contemporary issues in fisheries sector. The one day seminar on "Mishaps at Sea and Rescue Operations" organised by KFS was noteworthy.
- (viii) A Malayalam book entitled "The Sea Pearl" written by Sri. A. Andrews, a fishworker and trade union leader from Port Kollam Village in Quilon District was translated by Prof. Helma John and at the request of the author the Research Cell is considering it's publication.
- (ix) We have submitted a research proposal entitled "Study on Labour Mobility, Work Organisation, and Future of Small Scale Fishing in Kerala", to the Kerala Re-

search Programme for Local Level Development (KRPLLD) of Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum for financial assistance.

5.2. Documentation Centre

The collection and documentation of reports, studies newspaper cuttings, Video Cassettes, Slides, Posters etc. relating to fisheries, environment, caste, women's issues etc. are continued this year also.

The total number of books and reports comes to 5200 including the new arrivals of 500 books and reports on various subjects. We have subscriptions to national and international publications which altogether numbered 40. The facilities of the documentation centre is made use of by Activists, Researchers, Students, Professors, Journalists etc. The number of visitors to this library is about 40 persons.

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

The managing committee met 12 times this year and the General Body meeting was convened once. A special meeting of the members of PCO was convened to discuss the report on evaluation of fish-workers and youth training programme of PCO. The managing committee members are Seeta Dasan, M.M. Gracy, John Kurian, P.C. Gomez and J.B. Rajan. Smt. Seeta Dasan, Sri. J.B. Rajan and Sri. P.C. Gomez are working as Coordinator, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Messrs. D. Sanjeev Ghosh, Fr. Charles Leon, G. Jaigopal, Eppachen, Adv. John Kurien, Raimond and Dorus Ignatious are the advisory committee members.

Leenamma Jose, Seeta Dasan, Maglin Peter, M.M. Gracy, Remadevi, P.C. Gomez, R.Raju, Wilfred, D. Jayan and Thadeyus are

working as full time Community Organisers while Smt. Roshini Kurien and K.A. Shaly are working as trainees.

Sri. T.R. Thankappan Achari continue to head the Research Cell. Sri. J.B. Rajan is working as Research Associate, Retnamma as Librarian and Hilda Victor as the Library Assistant. Sri. A.K. Thankappan Achari who worked as Administrator, Joseph Joy, Benny and Smt. Biji who were trainees and Hailson who worked as Research Assistant left PCO during the year.

Smt. Sindhu and Sri. Sam are working as technical supervisors of Sramasakthi and Smt. Sreelatha as Secretary. Sri. J. Stalin and Smt. Sameema are working with the sanitation and water treatment programme. Mr. Paul Calvert of ITDG is providing necessary technical su-

pervision and guidance to this programme. Sri. N. Madhusudanan Nair as Administrator, Elgin Fernandez as Accountant and Vijayalekshmi and Prema Kumari as typists are continuing. Murugan, Rajendran, Sunny and Manikantan Nair assist in office works. Sri. Thomas Mathew is continuing as the Auditor and financial consultant.

The continued support and guidance from our full members, especially Ms. Nalini Nayak, Dr. John Kurien, Fr. James Culas, Sri. A.J. Vijayan, Sri. E. Tajan and Smt. Aleyamma are appreciated with much gratitude.

The training, Research, library and documentation wings of PCO started functioning in the new building at Chackai from February 1996 onwards.

On behalf of the Managing Committee

SEETA DASAN
(Co-ordinator)

J.B. RAJAN
(Secretary)

Managing Committee members of 1996-97

1. Smt. Seeta Dasan
2. Sri. P.C. Gomez
3. Sri. J.B. Rajan
4. Sri. John Kurien
5. Smt. M.M. Gracy

ANNEXURE I
&
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
1995 - 96

ANNEXURE - I

Other programmes in which PCO staff participated during 1995-96

Seeta Dasan	19-4-1995	Rajiv Gandhi Water Mission Awareness Programme Seminar at CDS
Leenamma	23-4-1995	Sahayi Training
R. Raju	14-5-1995	Anti-alcoholic work
Maglin Peter	1-6-1995	AICUF Art Camp
Leenamma	23-6-1995	Public Hearing at Ernakulam
Leenamma	3-7-1995	Sahayi Training
	7-7-1995	
Wilfred	3-7-1995	
	7-7-1995	
P.C. Gomez	3-7-1995	Sahayi Camp
	7-7-1995	(Planning and Budget)
"	29-7-1995	Water & Energy Seminar
	30-7-1995	
M.M. Gracy	1-8-1995	Research Methodology - ISI, Bangalore
	18-8-1995	
J.B. Rajan	1-8-1995	"
	18--8-1995	
R. Raju	5-8-1995	Sahayi Training (Kozhikode)
	13-8-1995	
Leenamma	13-8-1995	Water Preservation Seminar
Remadevi	25-8-1995	Seminar on women and development
	26-8-1995	organised by Cochin University
J.B. Rajan	20-10-1995	Regional Seminar on Traditional
	21-10-1995	Science and Technology
R. Raju	18-8-1995	ISI Bangalore-Social Analysis Training
	20-11-1995	
Thadayoose	18-8-1995	"
	20-11-1995	
Remadevi	2-11-1995	World Summit report discussions
		organised by Sahayi Renewal Centre
Seeta Dasan	11-11-1995	Cochin Convention
J.B. Rajan	15-11-1995	Regional Seminar on Traditional Science and Technology on Fisheries in Tamil Nadu.
M.M. Gracy	20-11-1995	Post Beijing Scenario - strategies
	24-11-1995	for advocacy - Madras.
J.B. Rajan	24-11-1995	Workshop on Local Market
	25-11-1995	

Seeta Dasan	24-11-1995	Workshop on Local Market
	25-11-1995	
R.Raju	24-11-1995	Trainers Training Camp
Leenamma	20-11-1995	Study on Women's Employment
	23-11-1995	
Leenamma	25-11-1995	Trainers Training Programme at Kumili
	30-11-1995	
J.B. Rajan	5-12-1995	Workshop on Rural Technologies
	8-12-1995	
M.M. Gracy, } Remadevi }	"	"
J.B. Rajan	9-12-1995	Workshop on Livelihood strategies of the Rural poor and
	12-12-1995	Environment challenges ahead.
"	26-12-1995	Congress on Traditional Science and Technologies
	31-12-1995	of India (CTSTI)
Thadayoose	26-11-1995	"
	31-12-1995	
M.M. Gracy	30-12-1995	"
	31-12-1995	
P.C. Gomez	26-12-1995	"
	30-12-1995	
Seeta Dasan	28-12-1995	"
	29-12-1995	
J.B. Rajan	16-1-1996	Workshop on Artificial Reef and sea farming technologies
	26-1-1996	
	27-1-1996	Eighth Kerala Science Congress
	31-1-1996	
R. Raju	17-1-1996	AICUF - class on social analysis
M.M. Gracy	18-2-1996	Workshop on NGO information - Net work on women and development on Kerala at British Library, Tvm.
R. Raju	1-3-1996	Anti-alcoholic programme
Maglin peter	5-3-1996	Methods to promote child right activities - ISI Bangalore
	8-3-1996	
R. Raju	5-3-1996	Anti - alcoholic programme
J.B. Rajan	22-3-1996	Vermi filtering plant study
	24-3-1996	
Leenamma	22-3-1996	"
	24-3-1996	
M.M. Gracy	25-3-1996	National consultation on problems of migrant women
	27-3-1996	workers in fish processing factories at Renewal Centre.
Remadevi	"	"

PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION
P.C.O. CENTRE, SPENCER JUNCTION, TRIVANDRUM.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 1996

EXPENDITURE	Rs.	Ps	INCOME	Rs.	Ps
To Fish workers women & youth programme	1,38,211.56		By Donations and Contributions		
" MISEREOR - Women's programme	3,42,113.89		Received during the year		
" Research and documentation account	3,07,978.92		(Schedule-D)	28,62,307.00	
" Kochi programme expenses	1,30,337.64		Less: Received for Training Centre		
" Development alternative account	1,47,001.15		Construction	3,36,698.24	
" MISEREOR - Housing account	4,81,384.09			<u>25,25,608.76</u>	
" Water treatment account	1,40,888.35		Less: Transferred to Reserve Fund		
" Trivandrum programme account	2,23,316.15		for Training Centre Construction	5,31,688.33	
" Training programme account	1,21,162.70		and capital additions	<u>19,93,920.43</u>	
" PCO Housing scheme account	15,985.00		Add: Donations and contributions		
" Ferro - cement programme	1,67,154.67		received in advance during		
" Administration expenses (Schedule-B)	4,24,847.83		the previous year	14,74,049.32	
" Depreciation written off during the year (Schedule-C)	1,29,720.74			<u>34,67,969.75</u>	
			Less: Contributions received in		
			advance for the next years	16,73,107.03	17,94,862.72
			" Fisheries Department ferro cement		
			grant/Donations	1,50,000.00	
			" PCO Housing account	16,233.00	
			" Beneficiaries contribution	1,84,450.00	
			" UNDP Latrine contribution	15,000.00	
			" Contribution for CTSTI Conference	40,183.00	
			" Reserve Fund account-Interest in Bank Deposit	2,46,019.10	
			" Administrative account (Schedule-E)	3,23,354.87	
TOTAL	27,70,102.69		TOTAL	27,70,102.69	

Auditors Report:

Examined and found to be in conformity with books and records produced before us.
 For THOMAS MATHEW & ASSOCIATES, Chartered Accountants.
 Thomas Mathew B.Sc., F.C.A., Chartered Accountant.

PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

P.C.O. CENTRE, SPENCER JUNCTION, TRIVANDRUM.

Balance Sheet as on 31st March 1996

LIABILITIES	Rs.	Ps	ASSETS	Rs.	Ps
CAPITAL FUND			LAND AND BUILDINGS		
As per last Balance Sheet	3,52,658.39		As per last Balance Sheet		12,58,077.64
OWN FUND ACCOUNT:			FURNITURE AND FIXTURES:		
As per last Balance Sheet	1,00,000.00		As per last Balance Sheet	70,412.59	
COPUS FUND ACCOUNT:			Add: Additions during the year	<u>1,42,417.40</u>	
As per last Balance Sheet	16,35,067.40			2,12,829.99	
Add: Transfer from Income & Expenditure Account	<u>5,31,688.33</u>	21,66,755.73	Less: Depreciation during the year	<u>21,556.80</u>	1,91,273.19
BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT:			EQUIPMENTS:		
As per last Balance Sheet	16,59,556.79		As per last Balance Sheet	1,00,331.70	
Add: Additions during the year	<u>3,36,698.24</u>	19,96,255.03	Less: Depreciation during the year	<u>10,422.00</u>	89,909.70
REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNT:			TRAINING CENTRE:		
As per last Balance Sheet	3,10,000.00		As per last Balance Sheet	9,94,098.75	
CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	16,73,107.03		Add: Additions during the year	<u>6,77,621.24</u>	
LOANS AND ADVANCES:				16,71,719.99	
As per last Balance Sheet	37,000.00		Less: Depreciation during the year	<u>83,586.00</u>	15,88,133.99
DONATION FOR LIBRARY:			LIBRARY BOOKS:		
As per last Balance Sheet	9,450.00		As per last Balance Sheet	7,999.20	
HDFC LOAN ACCOUNT:			Add: Additions during the year	<u>12,994.60</u>	
As per last Balance Sheet	6,00,000.00			20,993.80	
Add: Additions during the year	<u>3,43,500.00</u>	9,43,500.00	Less: Depreciation during the year	<u>5,248.45</u>	15,745.35
RESERVE FUND ACCOUNT:			TEMPORARY SHED:		
As per last Balance Sheet	84,185.00		As per last Balance Sheet	138.30	
BENEFIT FUND:			Less: Depreciation during the year	<u>69.15</u>	69.15
Received during the year	3,230.00				
Less: Payments during the year	<u>300.00</u>	2,930.00			

JOHN FERNANDEZ MEMORIAL FUND:

Received during the year	12,254.60	
Less: Payments during the year	<u>9,484.00</u>	2,770.60

MOTOR BIKE:

Purchased during the year	16,347.30	
Less: Depreciation during the year	<u>4,086.83</u>	12,260.47

UTENSILS:

Purchased during the year	19,006.03	
Less: Depreciation during the year	<u>4,751.51</u>	14,254.52

FIXED DEPOSIT/INVESTMENTS:

As per last Balance Sheet	21,62,000.00	
Add: Additions during the year	<u>5,10,000.00</u>	26,72,000.00

TELEPHONE DEPOSIT:

As per last Balance Sheet	5,000.00	
Add: Additions during the year	<u>12,000.00</u>	17,000.00

ELECTRICITY DEPOSIT:

Deposited during the year		21,010.00
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LOANS AND ADVANCES:

As per last Schedule-A		11,45,521.97
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CLOSING BALANCES:

Cash and Bank		6,53,355.80
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TOTAL	76,78,611.78	
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TOTAL	76,78,611.78	
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Auditors Report: Examined and found to be in conformity with books and records produced before us.

For THOMAS MATHEW & ASSOCIATES, Chartered Accountants.

Thomas Mathew B.Sc., F.C.A., Chartered Accountant.

**PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION
P.C.O. CENTRE, SPENCER JUNCTION, TRIVANDRUM.**

Schedule - A FURNITURE AND FITTINGS

	Opening	Additions	DEPRECIATION			Closing
			Total	Rate	Amount	
Furniture and Fixtures	63,920.25	1,42,417.40	2,06,337.65	10%	20,633.77	1,85,703.88
Duplicator	1,748.62	-	1,748.62	25%	437.16	1,311.46
Type Writer	4,513.63	-	4,513.63	10%	451.36	4,062.27
Cycle	230.09	-	230.09	15%	34.51	195.58
Total	70,412.59		2,12,829.99		21,556.80	1,91,273.19

Schedule - B EQUIPMENTS

Computer	53,055.00	-	53,055.00	10%	5,305.50	47,749.50
Television and Video	24,831.90	-	24,831.90	10%	2,483.19	22,348.71
Film Project	2,859.84	-	2,859.84	10%	285.98	2,573.86
Video Cassette	75.77	-	75.77	50%	37.88	37.88
Library Materials	17,393.27	-	17,393.27	10%	1,739.33	15,653.94
Teaching Materials	164.47	-	164.47	50%	82.24	82.23
Video Film	1,951.50	-	1,951.50	25%	487.88	1,463.60
Total	1,00,331.75		1,00,331.75		10,422.00	89,909.75

Schedule - C TRAINING CENTRE

Training Centre	9,94,098.75	6,77,621.24	16,71,719.99	5%	83,586.00	15,88,133.99
Total	9,94,098.75	6,77,621.24	16,71,719.99		83,586.00	15,88,133.99

Schedule - D UTENSILS

Utensils		19,006.03	19,066.03	25%	4,751.51	14,254.52
Total		19,006.03	19,006.03		4,751.51	14,254.52

Schedule - E LIBRARY BOOKS

	Opening	Additions	Total	DEPRECIATION		Closing
				Rate	Amount	
Library Books	7,999.20	12,994.60	20,993.80	25%	5,248.45	15,745.35
Total	7,999.20	12,994.60	20,993.80		5,248.45	15,745.35

Schedule - F TEMPORARY SHED

Temporary Shed	138.30		138.30	50%	69.15	69.15
Total	138.30		138.30		69.15	69.15

Schedule - G MOTOR BIKE

Motor Bike	NIL	16,347.30	16,347.30	25%	4,086.83	12,260.47
Total		16,347.30	16,347.30		4,086.83	12,260.47

TOTAL DEPRECIATION: 1.29,720.74

Schedule - D

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Misereor	15,30,790.00
2. Rosanna Kattani	1,26,024.00
3. I.T.D.G.	3,48,840.00
4. Entradite	8,56,653.00
TOTAL	28,62,307.00

Schedule - E

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT - RECEIPTS

Interest on Loan (Housing Loans to Co-ordinators)	890.00
Cyclostyling Charges	138.50
Plantation Income	250.00
Telephone Charges	4,926.85
Sale of Books	10,605.00
Miscellaneous Income	2,124.30
Room Rent	1,493.00
Library Membership Fee	2,465.00
Beiging Conference Expenses Re-imbusement overhead charges	8,258.00
Miseror - Account Womens Programme	43,615.45
Fishworkers Women and Youth Programme	18,920.83
Miseror - Housing	73,914.00
ENTRADITE - Training Programme	85,653.00
KOCHI Programme	44,087.94
Development Alternative	26,013.00
TOTAL	3,23,354.87

Schedule - A

LOANS AND ADVANCES

Programme and Other Advances	6,19,344.09
Staff Loans and Advances	83,705.00
Thrikkannapuram Vanitha Co-operative Society	2,400.00
Alillathura H.B.C. Society	2,88,784.00
Vizhinjam Matsyathozhilali Vikasanam	65,000.00
Bhaskaran - Dues	86,288.88
TOTAL	11,45,521.97

Schedule - B

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

Donations Paid	3,500.00
Telephone Charges	30,887.24
Periodicals and Newspapers	6,919.90
Printing and Stationary	16,467.25
Postage and Telegrammes	10,183.50
Salary and Allowances	2,24,486.00
Travelling Expenses	6,538.80
Seminars and Meetings	9,548.10
Office Expenses	4,598.80
Repairs and Maintenance	15,472.75
Current Charges	20,011.00
Audit Fees	24,000.00
Rates and Taxes	930.20
Interest and Bank Charges	821.00
Bike Expenses	2,065.88
Staff Welfare Expenses	5,184.00
Advertisement Expenses	1,270.00
Medical Expenses	4,700.21
Plantation Expenses	410.00
Other Expenses	19,880.75
Celebrations and Gifts	6,734.25
Conference Expenses	8,258.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,980.80
TOTAL	4,24,847.83

Acc. No.	

ICSF
FOR DIGITIZATION
DATE: 05/11/2018