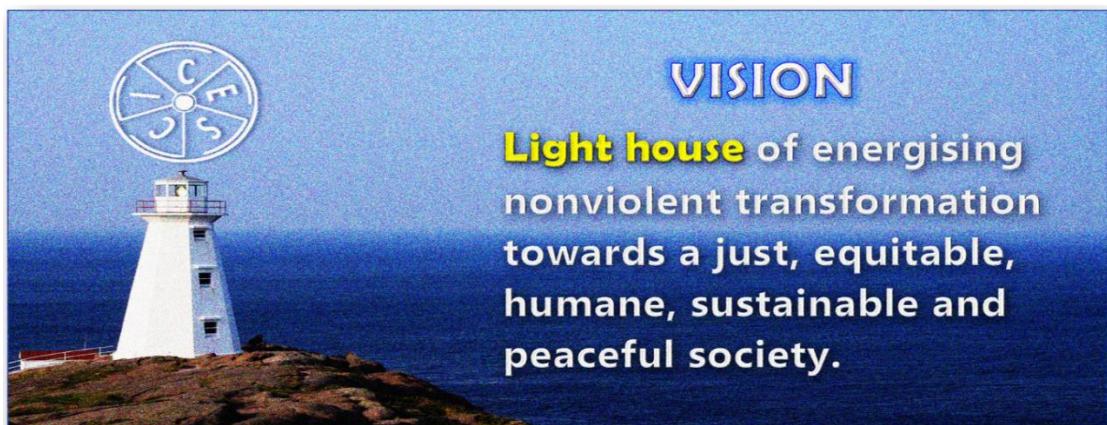


ANNUAL REPORT

2023



CENTRE FOR SOCIO CULTURAL INTERACTION

Majagram, Kadavur, Natham Road
Chathrapatti Post, Madurai 625014

Tamil Nadu, India

email: cescimadurai@gmail.com
www.cesci.in

THE CONTENTS

I.	ABOUT THE ORGANISATION	03
II.	CAMPUS ACTIVITIES	04
III.	FILED ACTIVITIES	07
1.	Children's Learning Centres	07
2.	Peace Clubs Programmes	09
3.	Women Empowerment Programmes	11
4.	Covid19 Rehabilitation: Economic Activity	11
IV.	OTHER PROGRAMMES	12
1.	Ahimsa Santhai: Celebrating Local Livelihoods	12
2.	Theatre Workshop & Festival	13
3.	Maja Koene Award	15
4.	Ekta Mahila Manch & World Women Summit Foundation Awards on Rural Women Creativity	16
5.	Book Release: Struggle for Peace & Justice	17
6.	South India Consultation on Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA)	19

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

The CESCI: **Centre for Socio-Cultural Interaction** is a not-for-profit organisation. The centre is situated near Madurai, in the state of Tamil Nadu in southern India. It hosts training for social activists and provides an ideal environment in which they can take time to reflect and recover from the mental and physical demands of their work at the grassroots.

CESCI is a direct form of solidarity. The social organisations and activists on the rights of the landless, women, and marginalised communities. A great part of its success is owing to the persistent efforts of men and women following the Gandhian philosophy with the will for social change for the betterment of the marginalized. Over the last two and half decades, 1000 activists work for awareness building, social rights, and self-help groups. Most of them stem from the same segment of the population they render their service. Hence, they are familiar with their problems and issues and can find suitable solutions

THE OBJECTIVES

To support people in the social change process, to relieve oppression, and to work to bring about social justice.

To organize training, education, awareness, and communication programs for social activists, NGOs, and not-for-profit institutions to bring about social change.

To enhance the quality of development projects by equipping involved personnel with adequate knowledge, orientation, motivation, and practical skills.

To initiate development-oriented dialogue between persons from diverse cultures, religions, and disciplines in and outside India.

To network with like-minded institutions and individuals, creating synergies and common action programs.

To provide a platform for interaction, exchange of ideas, and promotion of the message of non-violence and social transformation according to Gandhian principles, among individuals from different walks of life.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. S. C. Beher	:	President
Dr. G. Pankajam	:	Vice President
Dr Rajagopal, P.V.	:	Secretary
Mr. N. Muthu Velayutham	:	Joint-Secretary
Mr. K. Panchaksharam	:	Treasurer
Mr. Ransinh Parmar	:	Executive Member
Mrs. Cynthia Tiphagne	:	Executive Member
Dr. Jill-Carr Harris	:	Member
Mr. Promod, P.K.	:	Member
Mr. Krishnan Subramaniyam	:	Member
Dr. P. Uma	:	Member

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

1. Campus Utilisation Programmes

During this financial year – from April 2022 – March 2023, a total of 3311 persons were accommodated from 17 organisations. The CESCI campus facility was organisation utilised for 77 days. It generated Rs.1900765 from these services. Further, it also raised support of Rs. 23000 for theatre performances at the campus.

2. Theatre Performance

At the CESCI campus on various occasions, two dramas were performed by the CESCI Children theatre group. Mr. M. Ravi, a trained theatre performer created the dramas, is theatre skill trainer of CESCI.

CESCI CHILDREN'S THEATRE		
Place of Performance	No. of Times	
Play 1: Iyarkkai Maruththuvam (Natural Medicine)		
1. The CESCI Campus	21	
2. Gandhi Museum	13	
3. Schools	16	= 50
Play 2: 1GB Google Thatha (1GB Google Grandpa)		
1. The CESCI Campus	08	
2. Gandhi Museum	02	= 10

Children trained in theatre skills have got performing opportunity in their school events. This year, children from Kadavur CLC, had performed in the state-level cultural festival organised by the department of school education, Government of Tamil Nadu. They received state second prize and certificates and selected to perform in pan Tamil Nadu *Kalaith Thiruvizha*, and got recognised.

3. Village Volunteers Meetings

Volunteers are the backbone of the child development activities, especially, in carrying out the children's learning centres of CESCI in 13 village centres. The volunteers' meeting organised on the first week of every month, mostly on Sundays. In the meeting, the volunteer share about the progress, then handover the savings money of the children and the women group which is recorded and on the accounts of children and women accordingly. Then it is credited to the bank account. Every month volunteer meeting is usually attended by all the current volunteers and few past volunteers, altogether, 20 people attend and discuss further development.

4. Nonviolent Economy Consultation

On the promotion of the concept of a nonviolent economy, a two-day consultation was organised. A total of 40 people –college students, peace activists, and social entrepreneurs participated. Dr. Rajaji facilitated the discussion: the importance of promoting the nonviolent model of economic activities.

5. Social Work Students

A total of 87 social work students from universities and colleges have participated in five different programmes on the CESCI campus, from the Kerala state. During their time, they visited our working villages, especially they had interaction with children at the children's learning centres.

6. Children's Camp

On July 2 and 3, 2022 a children's camp was organised at the CESCI campus. A total of 105 children from 13 CESCI Children's Learning Centres actively participated. It was a programme themed on Art & Culture. There was a variety of programmes took place that stimulate the children's creativity:

- Paraiyattam (a traditional drum dance)
- Poikkal Kuthirai (Dummy wooden-leg Dance)
- Silambattam (a martial art by using short sticks)

Mr. Saravanam, President of the Peace Club, Mr. Siva, Secretary of the Peace Club (both teachers), and Mr. Thangapandi, a well-known Performing Artist lead the sessions and engaged the children.

7. Alternative Education for Adolescent Children

A one-day event was organised to discuss with the children of adolescent age. In this programme, Mr. Nandarao, Secretary of GMM, Prof. Rajesh, the American College and president of Tamil Nadu Science Movement. Mr. Siva, Kalakal Vagupparai, Dr. S. Balakrishnan, NSS, Coordinator, the American College, Mr. D. Ganesan, a Rotarian, Mr. K. Natarajan, Education Officer, GMM, and Mr. Saravanan, President, Peace Club, participated and had discussed with the adolescents.

8. Theatre Workshop

A two-day theatre workshop was held for students from various colleges in Madurai. 25 persons benefited from the workshop. Mr. Bharathi, Madurai, and Mr. Anand, Chennai, the performing artist cum trainer were the resource persons.

9. World Human Right Day

This is year, the World Human Rights Day, was observed with families of 'released bonded labourer. It held at the IGINP Library. There were 8 members from released bonded labourer participated. Every one shared their current status. From the sharing and discussion, it is found, there are some crucial issues to be addressed as early as possible for their welfare and peaceful living:

- Mrs. Kalaiyarasi, Serkudi village, Musri Taluk, Trichy district, a single mother's her land is encroached by a neighbour, despite, numbers petitions, no action is taken.
- Land allotted for Balwadi, is grabbed by local dominant person.
- Pattas not issued to the allotted lands.
- At Mukhthigram, 43 houses are weakened and need immediate renovation.
- Leasing a stone quarry to collective operation by a group released bonded labourers
- A proposal to start a tailoring training unit for women

After the discussion, Mr. Vishnupriyan, programme associate South India Coordination, CESCI has been assigned to take up these issues by visiting the respective places and starting the necessary work. Mr. Rajaji said that Mr. Natarajan, an advocate, and an expert in land issues may be approached for legal advice and assistance.

10. Ahimsai Santhai at CESCI Campus

In the initiative of promoting and involving the nonviolent economy, CESCI organised a local Ahimsa Santhai at the CESCI Campus, on 8th January 2023. This event was presided over by Mrs. A.K.K Ranjini, district judge and chairperson, of Madurai Permanent Adalat, Madurai. In her speech, she said that as legal professionals they have been only dealing with cases and case-related documents. But by participating in this event, she came to understand how people have been involved in different social activities. Mr. T. V. Venketeshwan, Senior Scientist, Vyan Prasar, New Delhi, briefed that whatever we do we have to see in eyes of today's relevance and scientifically beneficial. Mr. Muthu Velayutham, of CCD, medicinal plant collectors in the vicinity of CESCI were exploited and so the Ahimsa Santhai will help these people to market their products.

Members of the nonviolent economy network displayed 15 stalls. A total of 80 people visited the stall. Dr. Jill and the guest garlanded Mahatma Gandhiji's Photo and lit the *Kuththuvilakku*. And Mrs. Saravana and Mr. Karthick organised the event.

11. Republic Day Celebration:

On 26th January 2023, 30 children gathered to gather to celebrate India's Independence nearby Namma CESCI Children Learning Centres. The volunteers and the staff at CESCI have organised the event. Mr. Kumar, Forest Ranger, Vemparali, Dindugal district graced the occasion as chief guest and hoisted the national flag, and felicitated the children.



Ahimsa Santhai at CESCI Campus

FIELD ACTIVITIES

1. CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTRES

Children's Learning Centres, after-school programmes that contain occasional and scheduled programmes play a pivotal role in scaffolding a child's general education, and character formation, and making them responsible citizens of the nation.

- Assisting the children to achieve their academic pursuits.
- Engaging children in practices that inspire creativity, social relationships, appropriate behaviour, and positive self-image.
- Moulding the children to grow as responsible citizens by imparting knowledge on peace and nonviolence.
- Bring out the hidden talents of children by facilitating, training, exposure visits, and providing the opportunity to display.

S.No.	Location	Educator	Education	Children	
				Boys	Girls
Thethampatti Panchayat					
1	Therkikodai	Chellamanai	HSC	7	8
2	Kalathuppatti	Rajalakshmi	Diploma	5	10
3	Vemparali	P. Gayathri	BA	9	11
Manjampatti Panchayat					
3	Anna Nagar	M. Poun Fatima	BSc, BEd	7	7
4	Shanthi Nagar	M. Hari Prabha	HSC	6	9
5	Segupatti Main	Meena Kanimozhi	BA, BEd	8	7
Chatrapatti Panchayat					
6	Kallakuthal	G. Gowry	BCom	9	9
7	Chathrapatti	M. Sudha	BSc	5	10
8	Kadavur	R. Soundarya	BA, BEd	8	12
9	Kadvur Colony	L. Jayapriya	HSC	7	13
10	Thondaman Patti	S. Poonkodi	BA	6	9
Velichanatham Panchayat					
11	Poolam Patti	R. Thilagavathy	BE	8	12
12	Meenakshipuram	P. Kavitha	MA	8	7
Poikaikkaraipatti Panchayat					
13	Moonur	Pothumponnu	MSc	9	9
				102	131
				233	

Case Study 1

My name is Poun Fatima, I am a Volunteer taking care of the children in our vicinity at Annanagar in Seegupatti village. Ever since the Children's Learning Centre was formed about 15 children attend the after-school programme of the CESCI. Sabarinathan and Vanimuthu, a brother and a sister were hyperactive children who often couldn't concentrate on their studies and their parents were worried about their future. I paid special attention to them. Now, both are studying well. Sabari had difficulties in maths skills, eventually and received failed grades in the last examination he got 50% marks in maths and passed out. Similarly, his sister Vani improved her English language.

Case Study 2

My name is Soundarya, and a trained teacher (BA, BEd). I'm a volunteer in the Kadavur village and leading the CLC in my village. At our centre, about 20 children are attending classes regularly. Among them, most of them were lagging in their studies before they came here. Now they're different -disciplined, improved in their studies, behaviours have changed to good and eagerly participate in all the activities of the CLC.

However, as days went by, I found three children (Aishwarya, Yogesh, and Nataraj) weren't sitting at the clash rather they dash around, and kept talking all the time. They didn't pay attention either in school or here at CLCs, they seemed restless. They failed in most subjects. Hence, other children couldn't be friends with them. By giving special care: and encouraging positive and discouraging behaviour unceasingly; as a result, they exhibit positive behaviour. Good at studies, especially difficult subjects like Maths and English.



2. PEACE CLUBS

Sl. No.	Location	Sl.No.	Location
1	Anbalagan Salai	8	Mela Anuppanady
2	Anjugam Nagar	9	Melamadai
3	Annai Sathya Nagar	10	Palpannai
4	Anuppanady	11	Panaiyur
5	Chintamani	12	Santhaipettai
6	Gomeshpalayam	13	Vandiyoor
7	Karuppapillai Enthal		

Peace Clubs aim to introduce the idea of nonviolence to children in many schools in and around Madurai Mr. Saravanan, and Mr. Siva both schoolteachers are volunteering to achieve these initiatives. We started this process two years ago. Teachers from government schools engage themselves in this process of imparting knowledge on character formation through regular educational and cultural activities. It is an effective instrument that reaches children with a mode that would be easily absorbed by the children. Both Mr. Saravanan and Mr. Siva are progressive-thinking teachers who head these peace-building activities whereby they reach thousands of children every year.

2.1. Formation of new Peace Clubs

In association with Human Trust in Theni, Peace Clubs were initiated. The event was held at Kodangipatti, Theni district. The theme of the meeting was 'World Peace. In this event, Mr. Saravanan, President, of Peace Clubs, and Mr. Natarajan, Education Officer, Gandhi Memorial Museum, Madurai facilitated. Human Trust functionaries organised it locally. A total of 200 children participated.

2.2. Variety of Peace Club Programmes

A One-day children's development activity was organised at Gandhi Museum on 31st December 2022 in association with Gandhi Museum, and Littles Trust. The entire programme was organised by Mr. Saravanan, President, Mr. Siva, Secretary of Peace Club, and Mrs. Parvathavarthini,

Founder of Littles Trust. 500 children from the Madurai district participated. Mr. K. R. Nandarao chaired the programme, while Mr. M. Senthilkumar, Treasurer Gandhi Museum, inaugurated the event. The number of programmes is:

- Storytelling sessions
- Craftwork by palm leaves
- Origami art using papers
- Mahatma Gandhi Film Show





Peace Club Children formed in government schools received notebooks. It was jointly organised by CESCI and Gandhi Museum. Peace Club President Mr Saravanan coordinated the event along with CESCI staff members

One-day programme **for Adolescent Children** was organised and held at Gandhi Museum. In this event, children from Peace Clubs participated. The topic of discussion: **Understanding Adolescents Appropriately**



Pongal, the harvest festival of Tamil Nadu was celebrated with European Friends and was organised in coordination Gandhi Museum on 14th January 2023 between 3 PM – 5 PM. The programme was held at IGSR Hall, Gandhi Memorial Museum, Madurai. Children from CESCI Children's Learning Centres and staff members participated along with the European friends.

3. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The Women Empowerment aims to the achieve following:

- To encourage collective efforts for combating practices like dowry, alcoholism, etc.
- To empower women and instil **leadership qualities** in them. Women who are empowered are more involved in **gram sabha** and elections.
- To Boost the women's status in society and in their families, whereby they will have improved socioeconomic conditions and increased **self-esteem**.

3.1. Maja Gram Women Group

The woman's Group consists of 10 members. This group has been successful in goat rearing in the past years. Each member had increased their income through this goat rearing. Now, each member has given Rs. 1,00,000/- and they purchased cow calves. A total of Rs.10,00,00/- is given as interest free loan.

3.2. Covid19 Rehabilitation: Economic Activity

Sl.No.	Location	Economic Activity	Infrastructure	Capital
1	Assam	Cotton Shawl Weaving by 20 Women Collective	Weaving Machine	Rs.200,000
2.	Bhavani Pattanam, Odisha	Home Made Food Processing Unit by 10 Women	Grinder, Packaging Machine	Rs.250,000
3.	Cuddalore, TN	Dairy Cooperative	Cow Shed	Rs.200,000
4.	Manipur	Shawl & Scarf Weaving by 50 Women Collective	Weaving Machine	Rs.400,000
5.	Pollachi, TN	Minor Forest Produce Collection and Selling by 100 Tribal Women	Storing & Processing Facility	Rs.200,000
6.	Morena, MP	Home Made Food Processing Unit, by 10 Women	Grinder, Packaging Machine	Rs.250,000
7.	Sagar, MP	A Multi Good Shop, by 10 Women	Raw Materials	Rs.250,000
8.	Thiruvananthapuram	Snacks and Pickle Making Unit, by 10 women	Raw Materials	Rs.250,000
9.	Odisha	Black Turmeric, Value Addition & Selling	Raw Material	Rs.250,000
TOTAL				Rs. 22,50,000

OTHER PROGRAMMES

AHIMSA SANTHAI: CELEBRATING LOCAL LIVELIHOODS

Preparatory Programmes

- Regional and State Consultation Meeting – December 2021 & February 2022
- Nonviolent Economy Exposure Visit for International Delegate – April – May 2022
- Education Session on Nonviolent Economy – August 2022
- Walk for Nonviolent & Fair Market for Climate Action: From Gandhi Niketan to Gandhi Museum –18-22 September 2022

Inauguration

The event was inaugurated by renowned Gandhian Mrs. Krishnammal Jaganathan with Shri Rajendra Singh, Waterman of India, Shri Su. Venkatesan, MP, Madurai, Shri Manick Tagore, MP, Virudhunagar, and Shri Pushpanath Krishnamurthy.

The Ahimsa Santhai presented over by 50 eminent personalities –Gandhians, social worker, social entrepreneurs, alternate thinkers and activists, they are:

- Shri Jigmi Thinley, Former Prime Minister of Bhutan
- Shri PTR Palanivel Thiagarajan, Minister of Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu
- Shri Mani Shanker Aiyer, Former Union Minister, Government of India
- Padmashri Vikas Mahatmae
- Dr Rajendra Singh, Waterman of India

Market Creation

- 130 producer group stalls from across India
- Monetary value generated Rs 35+ lakhs
- Built rapport between the consumers and the producers.
- Created Consumer consciousness for Natural based and locally produced products



THEATRE WORKSHOP ON ECONOMY AND JUSTICE & FESTIVAL

The 22nd Theatre Workshop was held from 10.02.2003 to 20.02.2023. The event started with a flag hoisting. Mr Küde Meier, the vice president/treasurer of CESCI Support Association in Switzerland, followed by a floral tribute to the Maja Koene memorial. Then, a formal inaugural programme was held in the Maja Koene Memorial Conference Hall. In the inaugural Dr Jill Carr Harris welcomed the chief guest, Herr Küde Meier, Frau Franziska, Herr Heinz Gubler, Frau Christine, Dr Rajagopal the secretary of CESCI, the resource person, Dr C K Thomas, former director of Doodashan, Thrissur, Kerala State and his wife Mrs Meena Thomas, Mr Shanmugaraja, film actor and theatre personality, and Mr Jitender Pattnayak theatre trainer. A grand welcome was given to all the participants:

1. Chhattisgarh
2. Ekta Kala Manch (MP)
3. Jharkhand
4. Odisha

A total of 38 people in 4 states participated in the workshop as trainees. As a tradition, the '*Kuthu Vilakku*' was lit by the guests.

Mr Küde Meier, spoke on this occasion that due to Covid19, we could not contact the theatre workshop and festival for a couple of years. It is almost the 22nd theatre festival So, many people have contributed to fulfilling the vision of Maja at CESCI and appreciated all the people and he remembered them, including those who were present in the workshop and those who were not at this workshop. He listed all the names and thanked them. He urged the young people to take forward the vision and mission of the CESCI. The Workshop was Declared open.

The Workshop

The workshop had the following components, an early morning prayer, a physical exercise, shramdan, a morning lecture on the subject of the workshop, theatre games, theatre training by resource persons, then an evening prayer and film and performance viewing.

THE RESOURCE PERSONS

Lectures	Theatre Games	Theatre Training
Dr Rajagopal PV	Mr Jitender Pattnayak	Dr C K Thomas
Mr Karthik Gunasekar	Dr T Vadivel	Mr Thirunavukarasu
Ms Elamathi R	Frau Christine	Mr R Anantha Kumar
Mr Krishnan S	Herr Heinz	Prof Prabhar
Dr Jill-Carr Harris		Dr Rama Mani
Herr Küde Meier		

THE PERFORMANCES

Film Screening	Drama	Dances
Athma Vidyalayam, by C K Thomas	Odisha Team	Mr Maria, Switzerland
Ahimsa Santhai, by CESCI	Chhattisgarh Team	Mr Dayanidhi, Odisha
Ahimsa, by Karl Sauber	Ekta Mahila Manch Jharkhand Team Kaleidoscope, Madurai CESCI Children	Mr Muna, Odisha

The theatre workshop on economy and justice aimed to train the artists with advanced skills in creating drama with social messages in their respective states. In this workshop, 38 people from four states of India participated. Well-known theatre personalities conducted the workshop. The participants have honed their skills through this workshop created a drama on the pressing social issues.



MAJA KOENE SOCIAL AWARDS 2022

Maja Koene Social Award 2022 has been awarded to the following people in recognising their contribution to the society through their profession and calling. This year, five people from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Switzerland were selected by the panel members of the award committee of CESCI India, and CESCI Förderverein, Switzerland.



AWARDEES

International Peace Award
Social Activist Award
Social Activist Award
Social Activist Award
Social Journalist Award

Dr Rama Mani, Switzerland
Adv. Binoy Thomas, Kannur, Kerala
Mr Sivarajan, T G, Pathanamthitta, Kerala
Sahay Charitable Trust, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Mr L Murugaraj, Chennai, Tamil Nadu



WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE AWARD 2023

The Women's Creativity in Rural Life Award is an initiative of Ekta Mahila Manch (Unity Women's Forum), India, and the World Women Summit Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland. It is conferred to Rural women's movements and networks for their contribution to improving the quality of life.

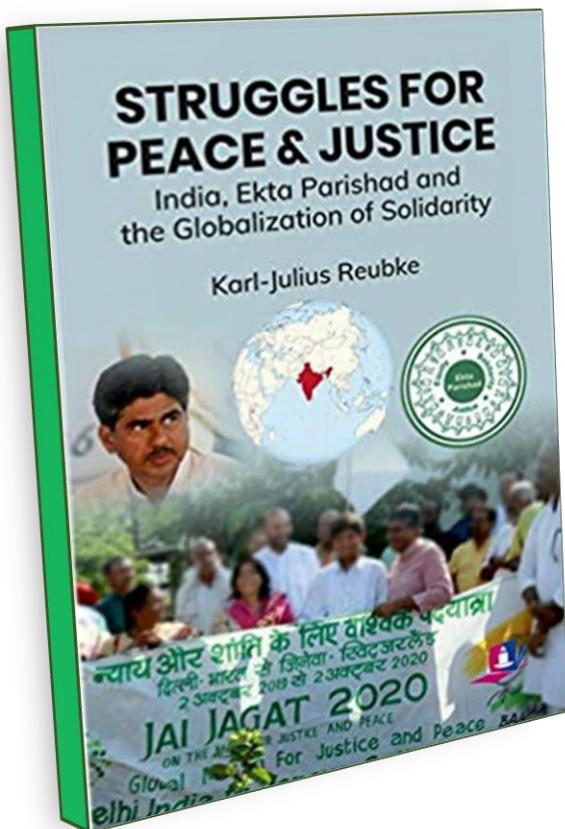


AWARDEES

Mrs Suchila Pandian
Mrs Bhagiyalakshmi
Mrs Lakshmi V
Mrs Ashitha V C
Ms Sivarani

Thirunelveli, Tamil Nadu
Thoothukkudi, Tamil Nadu
Attapadi, Kerala
Kannur, Kerala
Salem, Tamil Nadu





BOOK RELEASE:

STRUGGLE FOR PEACE & JUSTICE: INDIA EKTA PARISHAD AND THE GLOBALIZATION OF SOLIDARITY

WRITTEN BY : **KARL-JULIUS REUBKE**

PUBLISHER : STUDERA PRESS
1586/113, FF, TRI NAGAR
NEW DELHI 110 035

e-mail : info@studerapress.com

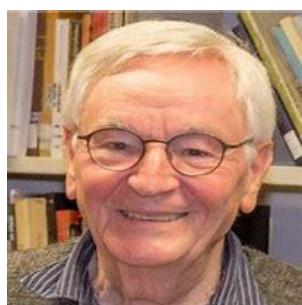
website : www.suderapress.com

ISBN : 9385883631, 9789385883637

LENGTH 684 Pages

SUBJECT : Social Science, Sociology

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



Karl-Julius Reubke was born just before the outbreak of World War II. Belonging to the generation of "Kriegskinder" his childhood and primary education was not straight forward and made him a convinced pacifist. Out of the two main objects of Interest, natural science and epistemology or languages, he chose the first for a profession cultivating the second all through his career as a research chemist. Since 1975 India has become one of his main themes of interest. He is a voracious reader. After retirement he turned to writing, teaching and travelling, mainly to India and Thailand. Since he met PV Rajagopal in 2001, he followed closely all the moves and developments of the Ekta Parishad movement.

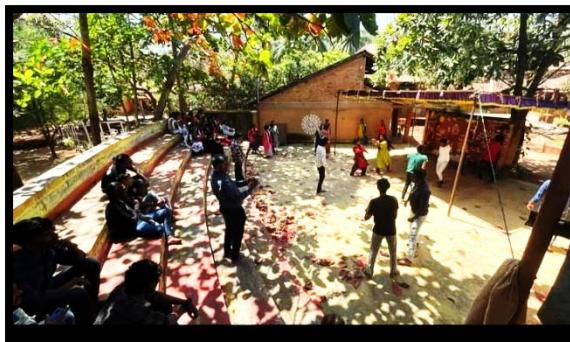
THEATRE WORKSHOP COLLEGE STUDENTS

From February 21-23, 2023, a Theatre Workshop was organised for college students from Tamil Nadu. Herr Heinz Gubler and Frau Christine Rinderknecht of Gubcompany, Switzerland and Mr Shanmugaraja, Nigazh Theatre Institute were resource persons. The workshop was jointly by CESCI. It was inaugurated by Dr Rajagopal PV, and Herr Küde Meier, cultural economist was the chief guest. Mr Vinoth Kumar, coordinated the workshop.

Participants: From the arts department of the following university and 60 college students participated.

1. Crescent College, Sigupatti, Madurai
2. Yadava College, Madurai
3. Madurai Kamarajar University, Madurai
4. Alagappa University, Karaikudi, Sivagangai district

Components of the workshop: The workshop began with theatre games and exercises aimed to impart imagination, and unfold the inner abilities of acting and rhythm sense. All the activities focused on the use of body, voice, and mind in drama. Then learners were divided into 5 groups and given a theme: ALIENS. Each has been asked to make a small play based on the theme using all the nuances of making a drama. Then they performed their plays, and the resource persons commented on the performance. The best drama was awarded and all the participants received a certificate of participation.



SOUTH INDIA CONSULTATION ON FOREST RIGHT ACT,2006 (FRA)

A two-day, 16th to 17th March 2023, consultation on Forest Rights Act, 2006, was organised by Ekta Parishad and supported by CESCI, Madurai. The programme was held at CESCI Campus, Maja Gram, Madurai. A total of 60 social activists, including law college students from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana participated in the consultation.

Dr Jill-Carr Harris welcomed the participants. Dr Rajagopal led and elaborated on the purpose and goal of the consultation.

Discussion on the Implementation of FRA:

- The people's control and access over land and livelihood resources concerning Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- Highlight the crucial issues yet to be addressed.
- Formulate coordination and advocacy strategies for effective results.
- Promote a South India-level local economy promotion network.

Further, from the group discussion, there are 34 points of issues that emerged. It was found that governments: states and the union, reluctantly implement schemes, and enough funds are not allotted. More importantly, the Adivasis are excluded from any committee that makes plans for them.

Shri Naba Kumar Saraniya, Member of Parliament, Kokrajhar, Assam, was the chief guest and promised to rise the issues Adivasis facing, in the Parliament.

Dr Jill spoke on the possibilities of promoting Adivasis' Economy. The middlemen traders lobby is a big issue that determines the values of the Adivasi Products and MFPs: By branding and marketing would bring sustainability and be acceptable to the customer.





The consultation concluded with the following decisions:

1. South India Forum for Control and Access to Land and Livelihood Resources (CALL).
2. The civil society organisation working on land and livelihood can be membered in this network from all southern states.
3. All kinds of land issues that are against the people will be addressed through this forum.
4. Publish the FRA in the southern state's vernacular, advocating, providing legal support, campaign, etc., are the first phase plan of action.

Mr Biju K, Coordinator, South India, Ekta Parishad, presented the vote of thanks.

Report by: M Rajendran