



Social Service of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart for Tribal People

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ABSTRACT

The congregation of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart was started at Irdyakulam on February 11, 1903 by a Jesuit Priest Rev. Fr. Adrian Caussanel. The Charism of the founder permeates the entire life of the Congregation. Its ministry consists in spreading the Good news of liberation to the poor neglected and marginalized sections of the society of the tribal area, liberating them from poverty, corruption, ignorance and superstition. The Brothers tried to civilize the Kanis and Pazhiger tribal people. For the benefit of the tribal people, many social services had started at Kanthalore in the Kerala State. For the welfare of the tribal people of Jawadhu Hills at Athipattu in Tiruvannamalai District, Sericulture Silk Weaving, Cattle breeding, spinning mill, Rice Powder Mill etc, were founded by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. Many developed schemes were framed for the Hill tribes of Badra Chalam in Andhra Pradesh, Gulbarga of Karnataka and Dhani of Madhya Pradesh.

KEYWORDS

Brothers, tribal people, service, development

In the world of disparity and disunity, hatred and cruelties, defeats and deaths, man began to think about the role of God. The Christian religion insists the word 'service' that it is a best way to reach the Almighty. Therefore they say that service to religion is service to people and ultimately service to God. Service is indispensable to the lives of the priests. The Congregation of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart was started with lofty ideals at Irdyakulam on February 11, 1903 by Rev. Fr. Adrian Caussanel. The founder Father of the Congregation wished all the Brothers in the church to be its humble workers. They may form Catechists, school masters, conduct schools, dispensaries, orphanages, homes for elders, disabled persons, HIV-AIDS patients etc.,

The Brothers tried to civilize the Kanis and Pazhingar tribal people. The Brothers formed Association for Kani tribal people and constructed 40 houses in the midst of the upper dam and lower dam of Papanasam with the help of the Government. They gave training for young lads to learn carpentry at Palayamkottai. Girls were admitted in teacher training course. Cattles were provided to the Kani families for their development. Many wells were dug and Motors were fixed to take water. By the guidance of the Brothers, the Kani people even placed in the Govt. services and selected for higher education. The Brothers dedicated their lives for the improvement of the many tribal people at different places.

In the year 1951, by the efforts of Bro. A. Thomas, many social services had started at Kanthalore in the Kerala State. The tribal people were known as "Muthuvan" people. For the benefit of that tribal people, the Brothers laid many roads at Kanthalore, Keelandur, Mariyur, Kovilkadavu, Pias Nagar and Perumalai. Hospitals were built at Keelandur and Kovilkadavu. Many Charity homes and orphanages were constructed. A High school was started at Kanthalore and now many tribal children are studying

Many Social actions had taken place for the tribal people of Jawadhu Hills at Athipattu in Tiruvannamalai District from 1975. Bro. A. Thomas created "St. Joseph's Hill Tribe Development Social Service" in 1982. For the benefits of the hills tribal people, St. Joseph Middle School was started on 1st June 1978. In the year 1985, a Sericulture Training Centre was started for that people. They got training in the field of agriculture. They learnt the cultivation of vegetables and fruits and Irrigation Systems. Vocational Education centre was started in 1981 for that hill tribes. A Medical Care Centre was also started. For the welfare of the hill tribes a post office is

setup by the Central Government with the help of devoted service of the Brothers. In 1981 a Teacher Training Institute was started for the hill tribes. In the beginning 25 students were joined. Later the strength of the Institute was increased to 40. The St. Joseph Middle School was later developed into High School in 1983 and Higher Secondary School in 1987. Free Hostel facilities are provided to the students. An orphanage was constructed in the year 1984-85. Separate Hostel was constructed for the girl students.

For the welfare of the Hill tribes, Sericulture, Silk weaving, Cattle breeding, Spinning Mill, Rice Powder Mill, etc were founded by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. In many places the Brothers of the Sacred Heart take a number of development measures for the Hill tribes. The Generalate of Palayamkottai framed many schemes for the development of Hill tribes at Gulbarga in Karnataka and Badra Chalam in Andhra Pradesh. The Generalate of Palayamkottai spent Rs. 2,41,225 for the purchase of 5 acres of land in Gulbarga for the welfare measures of Hill tribes. For the tribal children of the suburb of Gulberga, special schools has been created. HIV Hospital has been constructed to offer palliative care to the victims at Gulbarga.

Caussanel Foundation for Education and Development has been implementing programmes for the "Integrated Socio Economic and the Political Development of Tribal Women and Children" in 20 villages of Wazeedu Mandals of Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh"

CAFED activities are targeting towards children motivation camps, lobbying with the Government officials to meet the children who remain as child labourer, their parents and the formation and motivation for Tribal Women and Children in Wazeedu Mandal for their development. Residential Bridge Camp is conducted for the women, (RBC) and children and tribal women workers are trained as tribal leaders. Monitoring the National Rural Employment Guarantee Card is another activity that includes the issue of NREG cards, creating awareness on the Right Information Act, applying for the old age pension, widow pension, children pension in the target area and formation of children parliament are added activities in this context. CAFED has been working among tribal women for their development empowering them socially, politically and economically come up in life by forming self help groups. It also focuses on the school dropouts to improve their standard of living by providing education and skill training. Proper guidance is provided to rescue the child labours and send

them to Residential Bridge Camp of CAFED.

Bird Heal is another social work organ of the Sacred Heart Brothers that aims to create a society where brotherhood and egalitarianism are realized. Bird Heal works towards the integrated development of the rural areas of Karnataka especially in the Jewargi Taluk of Gulbarga District. BIRDS-HEAL is working among some of the poorest of the poor people in 125 remote villages of Jewargi Taluk in Gulbarga District since 2002.

The organization focuses its attention on health, education and social needs of the poor dalit and tribal population with direct focus on school drop outs, working children, PLWHA (People Living with HIV/AIDS) the physically challenged, Dalit and Tribal Women and Youth. The children of PLWHA (People Living with HIV/AIDS) are given educational assistance. Women Development programmes involved in 126 villages and they developed a lot. The empowerment program was organized in 40 villages.

Another one social service centre called Birds is to promote socio-economic development in 20 villages of K.R. puram Taluk in Karnataka State with special emphasis on organizing, training and networking of tribal women. Bro A. Victor Dass who is an eminent person actively engaged himself in this social service centre of Birds. For the upliftment of the tribals and HIV/AIDS affected people, all the social service organizations of Karnataka presented an award to him called "the Best Social Worker of South India" in 2010.

Planet Hope is founded in the year 2002. It focused its concentration on the integrated development of children in Northern rural Bangalore who are denied their childhood, have never been to school and like in miserable conditions in the streets or involved in hazardous work.

Asha Kiran Action Society (AKAS), Dhani, Madhya Pradesh has been implementing programmes for the Integrated socio economic and the political development of Tribal Women and children in 25 villages of Dhani of Tharampuri District, Madhya Pradesh.

The organization focuses its attention on tribal women empowerment by initially self help groups. The surrounded 25 villages at Tharampuri district are adopted by this organization and get functioned with self help groups among tribals. As for 2011 concern, there are 46 self help groups are in rule under this organization. Basic Health Tips, AIDS awareness program, Federation Meet and Seminar, Non formal vocational training, Two wheeler mechanism courses, Automobile courses, Driving & trades, Tailoring and Embroidery Training are provided by the resource persons through periodical years.

Thus the Brothers performed many valuable services by the word of their founder 'Good News to the Poor, and Serve of the Needy in the love of the Sacred Heart'. The Brothers stand in solidarity with the poor and oppressed. The Congregation is now grown as a banyan tree and achieved a lot for the welfare of the people.

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