



## PROVISION OF DOMESTIC WATER THROUGH RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEMS - EMBILIPITIYA SABARAGAMUWA PROVINCE

The Project was launched in Ranchamadama, Embilipitiya a remote village situated in a dry zone pocket in the South to provide clean water for drinking and household use to 31 families.

A needs survey done in the village in December 2009 indicated that the immediate need of the families (600) in the area was water for drinking and cooking purposes.

Project plan was completed with assistance from a technical expert in December 2009. Construction was completed by September 2010.

Our objective is to engage in poverty alleviation by means of supplying clean water for drinking and domestic use, whilst helping save precious ground water resources.



*6500 lt. urn - under construction*

The system employed was created by the Water Resources Board of Sri Lanka.

Even the driest zones in the country receive a substantial quality of rain during one or both annual monsoons. This system is designed to collect rainwater off the roof of each house, guide it along a simple pipeline into a large cement urn, provided with a filtration system and a tap at the bottom.



The urn when full, can contain 6500 litres of water, which is sufficient to meet the needs of a family of 05 persons for a period of 04 / 05 months with no rain.

The beneficiaries were encouraged to form a Society and register it as a rural NGO called “Dinakara Community Centre”.

The Society entered into a contract with a local builder for the construction of the Urns, under our supervision. The beneficiaries contributed their labour helping in each others constructions. This

encouraged the community spirit among the village folk. Monies were released in 03 stages – first before construction and the other 02 instalments during and after completion. Our project officers and advisors made regular visits to the site during construction and once thereafter.

***Eight months on... May 2011***

**New employment opportunities**

It was heartening to note that as a result of our water project several small cottage industries have sprung up. Others pride themselves on of thriving vegetable plots around their humble homes.

One innovative farmer, 51 year old **Edwin Omalpage** bought himself a 1000 liter plastic tank. Edwin has hitched the tank to his hand tractor and supplies water to the brick makers and gardeners. He collects water from a tributary to



the Chandrika Weva [river] nearby and supplies the extra water they need. The engine of his tractor doubles up as a pump to draw water from the stream and also to pump it up to conservation tanks, Edwin charges Rs 350/= for each load of water and makes around five trips to the stream each day.

**W Shirani Pathmalatha** – is now a happy housewife her conservation tank keeps her ‘home garden’ well irrigated, she grows winged beans, betel leaves, pepper corns and raddish.



**D.Dharmananda's**  
small clay brick  
industry has doubled  
its manufacturing

capacity after he acquired a rain water conservation unit. One year ago he was selling raw bricks to building material supplier. Now with sales improving Dharmananda is building his own brick furnace, the sale of baked bricks will earn him a much better rate he says.

**Mahindaratne** – is a popular local therapist and clairvoyant he too was a recipient of a rain water conservation tank.

He claims six months ago he had a vision where the Gods told him to dig for water a few meters from his home. He struck water after digging



30feet. He now pumps water from his well to the conservation tank up the hillock and the water needs of six more houses in the vicinity are cared for.

FDJ is planning on building another four tanks to supply water to 21 more families on the other side of hill. Mr. Mahindaratne assures his inexhaustible well will have enough water to keep the four new tanks full.

Our partners in Embilipitiya report that the beneficiaries are quite satisfied with the water systems and have reported no shortcoming in them.

***Benefits for the economically disadvantaged families:***

- Regular supply of clean water during dry seasons
- In an environmentally friendly manner
- Health benefits derived from elimination of high calcium content in water due to the filtration system in Urns.
- Promotion of community organization and participation
- Transfer of technology to the poorest deciles of the village.



## PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY VIA SOLAR POWER TO 100 RESETTLED IDP'S IN JAFFNA / NORTHERN PROVINCE

Displaced families in the northern district are returning to their former villages at the end of a protracted armed conflict. These rural areas are yet to be linked to the national power grid. Potable water too is in short supply in these areas.

FDJ has begun a project in Jaffna district for (a) the provision of electricity through solar power and (b) clean water for drinking and domestic use to 100 households. FDJ together with its implementing partner viz the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies, an NGO



*'Eluvantivu' – The Palm fringed road*

operative in the North and East, conducted a socio-economic survey, identified the beneficiaries and commenced installations in November 2010. The first phase of the project to supply solar power to 30

households was completed by end November 2010.

The selected beneficiaries were from an islet viz Eluvantivu to the west of Jaffna town. Access is through a land route up to Kayts Island and then by boat, travel time is approximately 40 minutes. The islet

of Eluvantivu is 5km long and 0.5km in width. It is densely covered with Palmyra.

Eluvantivu is one Grama Niladharis Division with 300 families. There is a CEB mini grid which provides power for a few hours each day and this too only to the densely populated area. There is just one two wheel tractors in the island.

Forty families living two kilometers from the center have no electricity.



*Palmyra based cottage Industry*

The FDJ project provided 30 families with electricity through solar PV systems.

Fisheries and Palmyra based handicraft making are the main sources of income of the inhabitants, who manufacture baskets and other household items from Palmyra leaves.

Availability of electricity will prove greatly useful for livelihood activity of the adults and for education activities of the youth.



Seventy more beneficiaries have been identified in two clusters in Kopay and Nallur both in the Jaffna peninsula.



*Smiles of satisfaction*

The next activity would be to provide rainwater harvesting facilities to these 100 beneficiaries.

FDJ also plans to provide skills-training which will

afford more self-employment opportunities to the 100 beneficiary families.

We hope to complete the envisaged programme when we secure more funding from our benefactors.

### **Eluvantivu one year on**

We met ten beneficiary families in Eluvantivu. Anna Marie Francesca is the mother of 4 girls whose ages range from four to eleven. Her husband Arul Nathan is a watcher at village hospital and she weaves baskets. When asked what difference the solar lamps have made to their lives Francesca said her children are able to study longer hours.



Sathyanathan is fisherman who moved to Eluvantivu from the war affected Wanni region, he is the father of four children. His family was in the Pullmodai welfare centre for some time. His answer to my first question was just as everyone else 'my children can now study better under lights; he is also able to repair his fishing nets at night.



Selladurai who speaks fluent Sinhala having worked in Colombo says his grandchildren now study longer hours and they have some extra income because around seven children from the neighbourhood come to his daughter for tuition. He is now able repair pushbikes under lights.



All the families I met spoke in unison and said the solar lights had helped in their children's education. It must be mentioned here that none of them owned a Television nor were they interested in one... All saying our children's school work is our first priority.



## THE ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING



*The Academy's main building*

This academy caters to the personal and professional development of Young Leaders. It seeks to inculcate knowledge, attitudes and skills required for efficient management as leaders in their chosen fields be it in the public, private or NGO sectors, to live in peace, harmony and with mutual respect living as individuals and communities in a free and democratic society. Young persons between the ages of 17-30 years who have completed their secondary education were chosen through a selection procedure.



*FDJ's Chair Mme Chandrika Kumaratunga*

The course was conducted during week-ends to accommodate those employed and students. The first 'three month course' commenced on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The services of Mr J Navaratne, retired Director of Education was obtained to prepare the proposal and budgets, curricula, identify

teaching staff, supervise building renovations, etc., assisted by two retired Vice Principals of Teacher Training Colleges.



*Mr Navaratne at work*

Ten trained lecturers, mainly from Teacher Education / Training Colleges with training skills and experience in leadership and associated subjects were on the teaching staff of ALT.

The course progressed very satisfactorily. The course comprised lectures and activity based learning. The participants were mainly from economically disadvantaged families, but had secured good results at school and exams.

Students gained much in confidence and knowledge and responded well to the teaching.