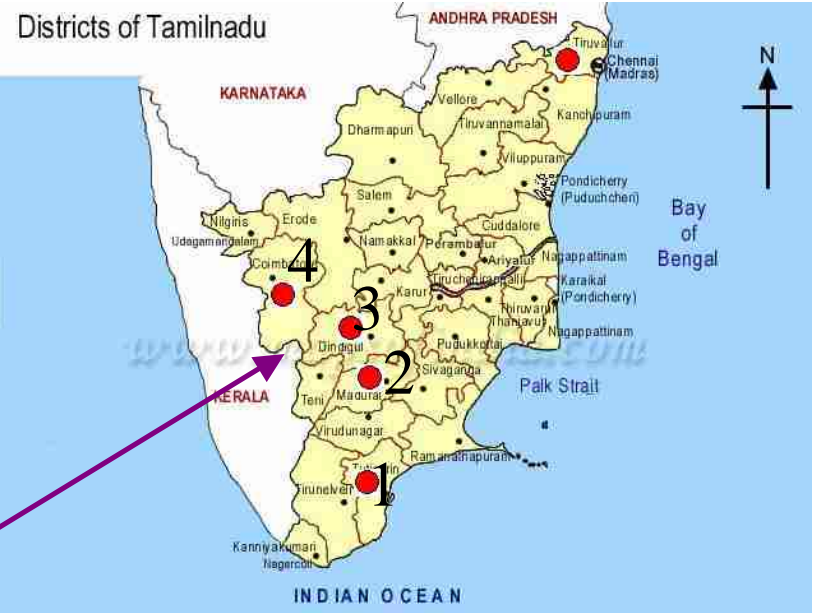


# Sustainable Rural development Visit Tamil Nadu villages

Jan 20-26, 2004

Vilathikulam Village near Tuticorin  
Dhan Foundation in Madhurai  
Gandhi Gram Institute in Dindukal  
Vavipalayam Panchayat near Coimbatore  
Venture Trust Pudukottai

Prepared on December 2003



1. Jan 21 Vilathikulam
2. Jan 22 Madurai
3. Jan 23 Dindukal
- Jan 24 Drive to Coimbatore
4. Jan 25 Vavipalayam

## Purpose of this journey

- Understand the process of rural development.
- Connect with the villages and villagers.
- See and understand the ground realities.
- Witness the success stories of transformation.
- Elango from Kuthambakkam will be our guide.
- Develop a “How to” manual.



## Jan 21- Wed- Vilathikulam in Tuticorin district

Vidivel trust operates in one of the backward areas of the Tuticorin district. Dr K.Jothimony, the Director of the Trust, has been the driving force behind the Trust. The trust aims to bring development to the rural masses.



During the year ending March 2003, the Vidivel Trust has completed work in the following areas. We will get an opportunity to see this .

National Child labour special schools.

Free coaching centers

Setting up a 100 KW Biomass gasifier

Project on nomads

Women Self-help groups

Community Health

Family Planning

Parent-teacher meetings

Tree plantation

Summer camp



Contact: Dr K.Jothimony, Director Vidivel Trust

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## Jan 22 Thu – Dhan Foundation - Madurai

DHAN Foundation,(Development of Humane ActionN) a not-for-profit developmental organization, is a pioneer in developing a model for banking with the poor. The model entails formation of strong, cohesive Self Help Groups (SHG) of poor women. The SHG is linked to banks for meeting the financial needs (credit and savings) of its members. DHAN has been able not only to demonstrate expertise in community mobilization but has also achieved success in linkage with banks.



Micro-finance through Community Banking Programme, Tankfed Agricultural Development Program, Information Technology



Four States (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Pondicherry)  
Total SHG's - 6762 : Total community Savings Rs 158.95 millions

More Info- Annual report of Dhan for 2002  
<http://www.thagaval.net/dhan/An-re-02.pdf>

Contact:

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Tel: + 91 - 452 - 2610794, 2610805 : Fax: + 91 - 452 - 2602247

E-mail: [dhan@md3.vsnl.net.in](mailto:dhan@md3.vsnl.net.in)

Website: <http://www.dhan.org>



## Jan 23 Fri Gandhi Gram Rural Institute- Dindukal

The Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI) was founded in 1956. With undying faith and deep devotion to Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary concept of 'Nai Talim' system of education, Gandhigram Rural Institute has developed academic programmes in Rural Development, Rural Economics and Extension Education, Rural Oriented Sciences, Cooperation, Development Administration, Rural Sociology, English and Communicative Studies, and, Tamil and Indian Languages.

Students who emerge from its portals tend to meet the personnel needs for rural development under various governmental and non-governmental schemes. To teaching was added, the dimensions of research and extension in course of time. Indian Languages & Rural Arts, Rural Health & Sanitation, and, Agriculture & Animal Husbandry. It has, at present, about 1300 students and 125 teaching and 250 non-teaching staff.

Contacts: Gandhigram Rural Institute, Deemed University  
Gandhigram - 624 302 Dindigul District Tamil Nadu  
Nearest Railway Junction : Dindigul -11 kms.  
55 kms north of Madurai

<http://www.ruraluniv.org/>



## Jan 25 Sunday – Vavipalayam – Coimbatore district

"All the people in India should get there basic requirements like food, clothing and shelter. Quality education and environment should become a birth right. The health of the Indians should be wealthy. And the wealth of the Indians should be healthy."



Vavipalayam panchayat is a reserved one for women candidate. SSL founder Mr.Sundaramoorthy's wife Mrs. Krishna Sudha Sundaramoorthy was elected as panchayat president in the local body election happened in Oct' 2001. She contested in the election as independent candidate and won the election with the marginal vote difference (98 votes). This is the first time she is becoming the panchayat president. She'll hold the post till the next election in 2006.



There are totally 10 villages in Vavipalayam Panchayat.  
East-Kullampalayam, Kaliappa Kowdan Pudur, Kaluveripalayam  
Kosavampalayam, Kottapalayam, Mandhiri Palayam  
Muthur, PalaniKowndan palayam, Vaavipalayam, West-Kullampalayam



Contact:

(55km from Coimbatore; Tirupur (30km) and Udampet(33km) are connected by train; Palladam (15km) nearest town.)

<http://www.sslindia.org/>

## Trip itinerary

Date	Place	project	stay
Jan 20 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday	Depart Chennai Leave by PearlCity Express Train# 6703	From Chennai Egmore station at 18:30 PM	Meet at Egmore station 2 hours earlier – pick up tickets, introductions
Jan 21 <sup>st</sup> , Wednesday	Vilathikulam	Vidivel Trust SHG's, Biomass Gasifiers, schools	
Jan 22 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday	Madurai	Dhan Foundation	
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	Dindukal	Visit Gandhi Gram Rural Institute	
Jan 24 <sup>th</sup> , Saturday	Coimbatore		
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Vavipalayam	Meet Sudha, Senthil Village development	Night train – Nilgiri Express – Train# 2672A 20:55 PM
Jan 26 <sup>th</sup> , Monday		Lv Coimbatore at 20:55 PM	Arrive Chennai Central at 05:15 AM

## Costs, accommodations **Arrangements almost final**



Madhuri is currently selecting the bus/train choice. Once you finalize the van/train choice, we can complete this page.

### **Train** details are:

Jan 20<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday - Leave by PearlCity Express Train Number 6703  
From Chennai Egmore station at 18:30 PM

Jan 21<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday-Arrive in Tuticorin at 07:00 AM  
Take luxury bus to Vilathikulam village

Jan 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Nilgiri Express – Train Number 2672A  
Lv Coimbatore at 20:55 PM

Jan 26<sup>th</sup>- Monday- Arrive Chennai Central at 05:15 AM



Chennai to Tuticorin - 657 km - 2AC : Rs 1014 3AC : Rs 634  
Coimbatore to Chennai - 496 km -2AC : Rs 830 3AC : Rs 591

For information: <http://www.indianrail.gov.in/>

For on-line booking with a credit card <http://irctc.co.in/> with a delivery of tickets to a physical address in India.

### **Van**

Shown left - is a picture of a Tempo traveller with push-back seats, AC, 12-15 people capacity.



Lodging: local arrangements are being made. Will let you know soon.