REPORT FOR
SWITCHER/PREM:about sexuality as explained in
your information paper."
< A 20-year-old student from
Tirupur>AND OTHER PROGRAMSTirupur>ON THE PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

Brrrrhhhh, Brrrrhhhhhhhh, Brrrrrrrrhhhhhhhhh - the machinegun is demonstrated by a "plastic wallah" who shows how much fun it makes to play with this plastickalashnikov made in China. The train has left New Delhi Saturday at 1130 and should reach Tirupur Monday morning at 5 o'clock. One man investigates the gun and starts negotiating about the price. The gun is for his son.... How is it possible, that man is so fascinated by arms I am asking myself...Why are men with arms (e.g. Warlords) highly respected? Arms are killing people – constantly! Violence is "no problem" in all "cultures" I met in my life....Preventive objects like condoms are still dirty....Why? What is the reason? I have a lot of time to think and observe life during this 2586kmjourney. It is Saturday, the 29. Sept 2001 - the second time, that I will visit Prem in Tirupur after more than 5 months absence. I look forward to meet again the ladies from the social department and all other staff from Prem Group.

When I left Tirupur in April 2001 the integration of Reproductive Health Services was introduced to most of the different companies of Prem Group. According to the signed declaration, access to condoms and information about reproductive health shall be given to all Prem–Employees in a dignified way. My second visit shall consolidate the work initiated in spring and improve the quality of this service.

1. **<u>REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH - Actions, Explanations, Problems, Future:</u> (declareTirupur.doc)**



Inauguration of the first Condom-Box: Ms. Mary, Ms. Josley, Ms. Narmadha.

Ms. Mary and Ms. Narmadha (responsible for the Social Department) where in favour of the idea to enhance condoms and information to all members of Prem in order to reduce unwanted pregnancies and e.g. AIDS. The first experiment we did was, to install a Condom-Bag and information about reproductive health (service) in the toilet of the staff in the main office. There were discussions about it, organised by the Social Department. Men and Women discussed separately. It seamed, that there was no opposition for our program. The next step was, to install the same service in the toilet of the Managing Director Mr. S. Durai after receiving his support. This is a very important stepunfortunately not done in most of the projects. Mr. Durai allowed us also, to put a "STOP AIDS"sticker onto his car. Most of the vehicles belonging to Prem where decorated with this sticker (social marketing). After my first visit most of the toilets where equipped with the same installation as in the main office. As some of the

"Before, I did not know anything

Condom-Bags got destroyed (only in two men toilets) Condom-Boxes were produced in order

to give an additional (emergency) access to all Prem members in a place, which is less hidden than a closed toilet. So even if the Condom-Bags are empty, the access required according to the signed declaration (See declareTirupur.doc) is fulfilled. Of course it needs more courage to get free condoms that way, as some person could observe one approaching the Condom-Box.



It was recognized, that the book "Where there is no Doctor" (David Werner) in Tamil language could improve the access to a more holistic health knowledge for all staff. Metallic bookstands where developed and installed wherever people have some time for leisure or "waiting time". In canteens, restrooms and even at the entrance of the main office this valuable book got (will be) installed. The logistics and the maintenance for all installations (Book-Stands, Information Board, Condom-Bags, Condom-Boxes) aot decentralised. Every factory (e.g. Prem Gardens; Veerapandi; Thuthariplayam etc.) has a store for condoms, which is managed by employees of the production. Two ladies and two men are (will be) in charge for refilling, maintaining, monitoring. One lady (man) is

responsible for the refilling of Condom Boxes /Bags – has to replace dirty or damaged Condom-Bags with washed ones etc. The other lady (man) is monitoring only. Every 6-month these functions are switched (refilling; monitoring). If the decentralized stock reaches a certain limit (e.g. less than 1000 peaces), then the Social Department is informed, and further condoms are organized.

2. ECOLOGY, RENEWABLE ENERGIES: (solarcooking.doc)

of Mr. B.K. Prakash.



During my first visit 4 windmills, each 225 kW (peak) got inaugurated near the Classic Spinning Mill. Fantastic!!!! From the beginning on I was also active in the field of ecology. Most of transportation was done by bicycle. Solar Ovens and a Solar Hot Water System got produced and used with interested staff of Prem. The response for Solar Ovens was small due to required changes of the habitual cooking and different taste of the food. The Solar Hot Water System demonstrates its function in the house

100%SWISS



^{*} The dyeing factory has the greatest potential for ecoimprovement... The outlet after dying is still a harmful impact for environment. To just put it into a pool and evaporate it eiter in a basin or on a field, is still a problem, which has no easy solutions.

The dyeing procedure needs a lot of energy most of it in form of steam. Between 20 and 30 tons of steam are required every working day. This means at present, that 15 tons of precious wood is consumed every day. I asked if it would not be possible to burn oil instead of wood. Yes, this is possible, but 15 tons of wood (30-50'000kWh) costs



20'000 Rs and 3000 I of oil (ca. 28000 kWh) costs 34'000 Rs. The difference of ca. 500 Fr. per day made me understand, that other ways have to be found: In the short-term ca. **50 m** of "naked" pipes **can be insulated**. This will help to save tons of wood each week. As the technical standard of the machines in the dying factory are probably best in Tirupur, the efficiency of the steam production is an option, which can be improved in the long run:





Veerapandi: Here 56 Scheffler-Reflectors could "create" ca. 2 tons of steam per "sun-day". Mr. Durai already agreed, to invest in thermal solar energy: The kitchen in Veerapandi will be equipped with 2 Scheffler Parabolic Reflectors of 9 m² each. The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources in Delhi will subsidise the project with Rs. 50'000. -(ca. Fr.1800.-). An Entrepreneur, from Gujarat will install the two Scheffler Reflectors next year. As the kitchen - wall is nearly East-West and the roof is not too high, the civil engineering investments are bearable for the

integration of the two Reflectors. This Solar Kitchen will be able, to save around 100 tons of wood every year (9 month a year in action), if the Solar Kitchen is used correctly.

As the Scheffler Reflector can also be used for steam production (see solarcooking.doc), it is hopeful, that Prem will become a Solar pioneer in the next 5 years. The conditions for it are very favourable, as the building of the garment production is looking exactly North-South (by chance?).

One Scheffler Community Solar cooker costs Rs. 65'000. -





Veerapandi Kitchen: The Mayflower tree must be removed and replanted.

3. SOCIAL CHALLENGE, Fairer Play: (NESPinfo.doc)

As we all know, the global market is not fair. In the last 100 years human beings have become more and more dependent- on money. We all have never been as interconnected as we are today. If the USA has a recession, the whole world has it! It was not always like this. Money has become so powerful, that we can buy more than goods and services... People do anything for money – sometimes due to "poverty" sometimes due to greed or due to a mixture of greed and material poverty. Some of us might remember the barter system: Inflation is not existent with such a system. Why? Well the barter system cannot be a global system – it is local, personal.

NESPinfo.doc tries to explain, why a local currency- similar to the barter system is quite fair. As the global monetary system will collapse, it is wise to start as soon as possible with nature-al systems in order to be prepared (prevention) for "harder times". To know alternatives -even if the big crash will not come in the next 10 yearshelps all of us to grow (mentally): Lets play a fairer game and learn more about "Monopoly" through it. With my (bachelor) roommates and with the management of Prem Group I already played with the NESP-cheques. With the administration I discussed, how it could be integrated as easy as possible by using Prem-standards.

4. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- Out of psychological reasons it was wise not to emphasise too much on sexuality. The integration of NESP and Ecology was a good moderator for the reproductive health actions.
- The Durai Charitable Trust is based on Free Canteens, Free Schools, Free Water supply, Free Dispensaries. Recently some of the Free Canteen- offer had to be stopped due to lack of appreciation and its effects. According to my experience, whatever is free, is not appreciated by 90% of human beings. The NESP idea can give value to most of the Switcher/Prem- services.
- In October the staff of the garment factory (Prem Gardens) striked for 7 days. I am convinced, that the NESP system could reduce this opposition, as these

people would have ca. 10% more (qualitative) income for a price of one management-salary in Switzerland.

 During my stay in Tirupur, Prem Gardens School received 234 applications for admission. 204 children where rejected... To construct new schools is an action against this symptom- but after school 80% will not find any job. In Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir) I was fascinated by a school, which teaches teachers how to educate people, which will be unemployed in the future. I am aware, that it is a very difficult work to change most of the school system, but for the long run we do not have many alternatives. Organic farming, Solar energy, making medicine with tropical plants are some of the tasks, which should be part of a school- philosophy (love-wisdom), which wants to make the students as independent as possible.

5. VALIDATION:

- Travel:
- Honorarium for 7 weeks of work in Tirupur
- Material
- Food and accommodation

I am very grateful, that decision makers of a profit-oriented company **DO**, what most of the NGO-"Experts" still ignore. It will benefit all of us- specially, when other companies / organizations follow the good example of Switcher/Prem.

Please let me know, if you have questions/ suggestions. I am glad to explain details on a round table (e.g.).

Thank you for caring. Vanakkam,

Alec Gagneux.

- www.transaction.net/press/interviews/lietaer0497.html informs about the fundamental injustice in the monetary system of today.
 www.sodis.ch informs about water purification.
- <u>www.helvetas.ch</u> informs about one of the Swiss NGO's.
- <u>www.globoSol.ch</u> and its links shows, how solar cooking is benefiting people from different countries.
 - <u>www.tarshi.org</u> gives information about reproductive health for all people.



Drawing on a wall in the Veerapandi School - less than 300m away from mountains of wood for the dyeing- steam generator... Often children understand more than adults...