

**ACTIVITIES OF NEHRU YUVA KENDRA (NYK)
IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT**

**BY
KAVITHA MALARVIZHI, N.S.**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE
AVINASHILINGAM INSTITUTE FOR HOME SCIENCE AND
HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WOMEN (DEEMED UNIVERSITY)
COIMBATORE-641 043**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HOME SCIENCE EXTENTION EDUCATION
MAY, 1993**

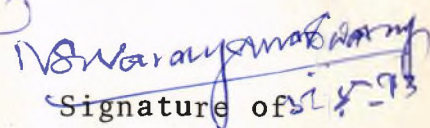
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of the Department



Signature of the
Dean of the Faculty



Signature of
the Guide

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached

- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

India is one of the oldest civilisations with a Kalaidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. It has achieved multifaceted socio-economic progress during the last 14 years of Independence (India, 1991).

The organisation of our villages is an indispensable work to which we must immediately set our hands, but we must be careful to organise them so as to make them feel that they are imperfect parts of a single national unity and dependent at every turn on the cooperation, first the district, secondly of the province and finally nation. The day of the independent village or group of villages has gone and must not be revived; the nation demands its hour of fulfilment and seeks to gather the village life of its rural population into mighty. We must make the nation what the village community was of old, self sufficient centered, autonomous and exclusive of the ideal of nation Swaraj (Manthan, 1989).

Community development is an exclusive term. It is frequently used to encompass any and every effort towards the advance of community interests.

Maciver, uses the word 'development' to signify an upward course in a process 'that is of increasing differentiation'.(Dahama and Bhatnagar, 1990).

The fundamental or basic objective of community development in India is the development of people or "Destination man" (Reddy, 1987).

Since Independence and the dawn of five year plans, a number of rural development programmes have been taken up to alleviate poverty and to improve the rural economy (Rayudu, 1989).

Great leaders and philosophers have expressed that the plight of the country can be changed only by making the youth of the country become more practicable and get attached to the outside world.

For youth means ideas, new ideas in action, that could absorb the best of the past and the grand vision of the future. They are a dream in the making, nurtured on the experience of millions. The future belongs to

them. To make or mar tomorrow's world, lies in their hands, but it is given to the passing generation to guide them to help them grow on their own. Mankind stands to gain in the greatest possible measure by utilising to the maximum the best resources lying untapped in the vast youth population of every nation. For "The youth of a nation are", in the words of Benjamin Disraeli "the trustees of posterity" (Nair, 1985).

Youth is the supreme symbol of strength. Youth is synonymous with vigour, action and change. The young man and woman possess great power and have been in the forefront of important revolutionary movements in the world (Sharma, 1975).

Youth is a transitional period from childhood to adulthood. The period of the youth is the best time when the setting up of the mind and shaping the character take place in the human being (Rao, 1974 and Nair, 1981).

The student youth are in schools/colleges which provide educational opportunities for them. In the institutions, the youths are an organised form of gathering. The non-student youth employed or

unemployed, educated or uneducated are scattered over in rural and urban areas.

The energies of both student and non-student youth which comprise of nearly 30 per cent of the population, could be utilised for developing the communities in addition to their own personality development. The colleges and institutions make use of these human resources for the development of the areas through National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS), and Community and Social Service (CSS). The Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYK) are the channelizing agencies for the utilisation of non-student youth energies in the development programmes.

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) was established in 1948 by an act of Parliament and is the premier youth organisation in the country today. Students of Universities, Colleges and Schools can join NCC on voluntary basis. It aims at developing qualities such as leadership, character, comradeship, spirit of sportsmanship and the ideal of service among the youth through disciplined training which in a national emergency could stand them in good stead. [NCC Sovenior, 1989].

National Service Scheme (NSS) was started in the year 1969 - 70 in the Universities. The main objective of the scheme is to develop personality of the students through community service and to arouse their consciousness by providing opportunities to interact and work with people creatively and constructively (Naidu, 1980).

The foundations for community and social service have been laid by Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. The philosophy of CSS emphasises educating the people to help themselves. The college students are not going to work for the communities, but work with them (Devadas, 1978).

Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYK) sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India are there in each district throughout the country. The non-student youth are scattered over the rural and urban areas in a disorganised way. Nehru Yuva Kendras encourage gathering of these youths at the village or slums or local levels and in addition to motivating them, encourage them and create the feeling that the village belongs to them and they are part of the villages, thus creating a feeling of oneness with the village. Nehru Yuva Kendra encourages them to organise clubs and participate in the activities which will help

to improve the community. The youth clubs and mahalir mandrams are the functional units of the Nehru Yuva Kendras.

Since the Nehru Yuva Kendras have been carrying out these programmes for more than two decades, it is worthwhile to investigate the efforts of the Nehru Yuva Kendra through Youth clubs and mahalir mandrams in the developmental programme in rural and urban areas of Coimbatore district in terms of certain parameters with the following objectives:

To study,

- the functioning of NYK in rural and urban areas in Coimbatore District,
- the extent of involvement of youth in NYK programmes,
- the different activities undertaken by Nehru Yuva Kendras in rural and urban areas and
- the benefits acquired by the community through NYK activities.

Due to the limitations of time, infrequency of transport and conveyance, the investigator had limited

her study of the Nehru Yuva Kendra programmes through the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams in rural and urban areas of Coimbatore district alone.

It is hoped that the findings of the study will help to improve the functioning of Nehru Yuva Kendras and lead to the full attainment of its goals.

Review of Literature

II REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of literature pertaining to the present study is given under the headings:

A. Youth and National Development

B. Nehru Yuva Kendra

A. YOUTH AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Youth constitute almost a third of the world's population. In terms of definition, youth constitute men and women from adolescence to the middle age. Though the definition of youth differs from country to country, by and large the population falling in the age group 15 to 35 is termed youth (Desai, 1985).

Youth is a young man in heart, vibrating with zeal, drive, innovation and active at all times. According to 1991 census there were 214.5 million youth in India, comprising 121.3 million in the age group of 15 to 24 years, and 93.2 million in the age group of 25 to 34 years. Of these 156.8 million of youth (73.1 per cent) lived in rural areas. Therefore,

rural youth contributed a numerically dominant, potentially resourceful and adventurous segment of the country's population (Singh and Sharma, Hissar, 1992).

Youth represents energy, enthusiasm and vigour which is a valuable but untapped human resource. Many movements of social and political nature in different countries are spearheaded by the youth (Chowdhry, 1992).

The young people constitute more than 62 per cent of the population. They have an energy, idealism, dynamism and integrity which may be rare in other groups of people. We should try to realise the utmost use of this potential in our country. For this we need to train and develop the youth in a manner that they might contribute their best to the national development (Shah, 1982).

Swami Vivekananda had unlimited faith in the youth and he looked for men who were sincere, strong and vigorous and were considered, the backbones of the nation. A hundred such men could revolutionize the world (Bhattacharya, 1989).

The youth have the right as well as the obligation to participate actively in national development and shape the destiny of the nation which is, in fact, their own destiny. It is, therefore, imperative to create increasing opportunities for them to develop their personality and their functional capability and make them economically productive and socially useful. The programmes for youth are to be planned imaginatively and implemented effectively by all concerned (Social Welfare, 1990).

The youth, representing a third of our population, constitute a vital human resource. They participate actively in our national development and in shaping the destiny of our nation. Their problems are many and their aspirations high, with greater promise for the future. The need therefore, is to create increasing opportunities for youth and make them economically productive and socially useful. After national debate we have reduced voting age to eighteen which itself is a recognition of youth power (Social Welfare, 1989).

Youth can make their constructive contribution to national development and through which society benefit from the idealism and sense of dedication of youth.

Youth are the human capital of mankind. Rural youth constitute a numerically dominant, potential resourceful and adventurous segment of the population. However, most rural youth are illiterate and are intenced by the needs of their families. They lack opportunities for organisational activities and lack of guidance from participation in developmental activities. Youth from villages have more scope to organise youth clubs, but in the process these clubs are turning out to be either socio-cultural organisations or political units. There are more than 1,00,000 youth clubs known as yuvak mandals, yuvak sanghas, mahila mandals and women federations working in community blocks. But they are unable to take up any profitable developmental projects themselves. Nor have they been mobilized and involved to contribute their mite to the development process by government department or authority. The primary cause for this wastage of youth manpower: Lack of appropriate state-wide interlinked network for youth organisation and lack of proper training and guidance.

There are two possibilities for total mobilization of youth for development:

- i. to formulate a state policy for youth and build up a statewide network of youth organisations and training centres.
- ii. to involve organisations on a large scale to organise rural youth and they be funded totally from the union and state budget allocations for youth activities (Rajasekar, 1987).

The rural youth of India represent a bulk of its national strength. They are nearly one fourth of the total population. It would be very difficult to ignore this dynamic segment of the population amounting to over one hundred and forty millions. The strong segment is to form the backbone of future India. On the rural youth, therefore, falls a great responsibility of diverting the life of the community towards social, economic and agricultural progress. This is a task for which the rural youth must equip themselves well by learning modern techniques of all round development and progressive attitude towards life. If we analyse the types of rural youth, we will find mainly two categories - one the student youth, the school goers and the other is nonstudent youth including school dropouts.

The rural youth have some special characteristics. They are easily adaptable to change, a will to do greatest good for the greatest number and will to sacrifice. The young boys and girls whether they are school going or non-school going are very receptive to programme which suit their age group. If this important segment of the rural society is not tackled properly and their aspirations not fulfilled, the development and progress of the country is not possible (Singh, 1985).

A sizeable of our young people are fulfilled citizens of the country and enjoy all the rights including the right to vote. We have to be aware of the importance of the youth in this context and not be afraid that youth has become a 'problem' and 'threat' to society 'violating' the rules and accepted modes of behaviour. Our concern for youth should not also arise out a desire to 'divert youths' attention from their 'just destructive' tendencies and to make them more 'disciplined'. We should have a positive policy for our youths as they are the architects of our destiny and no scheme of national regeneration can make much headway without their effective participation (Ansari, 1978).

The majority of youth in the world are rural and poor and are already parents, lacking sufficient food, safe water, proper housing, health care, basic education and access to employment. They are growing up on the edge of survival without any hope for decent life, and nothing to enable them to contribute to the development of their community and the country (Rajeswari and Hari, 1985).

The nation's youth are its most potent and latent resources. It is necessary to organise them and channelise their energies towards desirable goals in the interests of national development (Rade, 1971).

Dave (1976) urges youth to fully prepare themselves to shoulder the responsibilities of nation building. They should shake off the lack of sensitivity to happenings around them and be prepared to face all problems.

Youths, whether rural or urban abundant and energetic human resource, are partners in development. They are the future leaders and vanguards of the nation. They are the community's assets. Their roles in the different spheres of national development must be

defined and their energies and actions channalised towards realising it. They need to be utilised fully for changing the harmful beliefs and practices in the traditional rural or urban society, in order to make them progressive and democratic (Munshi, 1973).

Youth in the country constitutes a vast human resource which is characterised by idealism and zeal, active habits, positive attitude towards service to others, an urge to be self-reliant and willingness to explore newer and non - conformist approaches to societal problems. If properly harnessed and utilised, the youth could therefore be a powerful instrument of social, cultural and economic change. There are four major aspects of youth to be considered in a co-ordinated manner viz., development, mobilization, organisation and utilisation, to promote their involvement and participation in the nation building activities. The general approach to, and details of, an integrated strategy for youth programmes need to be considered in a wider perspective than the educational system because the problems of youth relate to more profound and broader issues like personality development, transition from childhood, gainful employment, suitable development of their spirit for

adventure and opportunities for community service. The main concern would be to concentrate on problems encountered in integrating youth in the overall life of society. The situation of youth is intimately linked to development process and any long term economic downtrend may have adverse effects. Emphasis needs to be placed on increasing quality and quantity of opportunities for youth for meaningful participation in development. Youth participation should be considered as an integral part of the development process. If not their social disfunction becomes a norm and not an exception (Desai, 1985).

The potential of youth, if it is to be properly tapped, requires understanding and support. Youth is a very special time with special challenges and is a period during which the body, personality, intellect and social attitudes are developing erratically, usually independently of one another and frequently explosively. It is a time of life that is full of potential and problem. It is an age characterized by impatience as well as curiosity and by a strong desire to leave childhood behind and play an independent role. It therefore becomes imperative that youth are brought up in an environment which is stimulating and

sufficiently challenging for them to be able to explore their potentialities and build up a satisfying future (Rajeswari and Hari, 1986).

Youth, a time for reflection, a time for change, a time for involvement. Social action is the spontaneous reaction of the community to its changing environment for the benefit of its people. Social action can be said to be an individual group and community effort which aims to achieve social progress to modify social policies and to improve social legislation, health and welfare services. Keeping in view the number of problems which have to be tackled, social action becomes an integral way to tackle problems. Social action and social change are synonymous, social action not only promotes change but also stops a change from taking place. Youth are considered embodiments of energy, dynamism and change. The youth power need to be unleashed. It is critical therefore for the youth of any country to participate in finding solutions to problems. The major task is not finding of solution, but to get the people to a common platform. Examples abound where organisations have been successful in harnessing youth power for social action. "YUVA", youth for unity and voluntary action, is one such organisation (Vishwa Yuva Kendra, 1992).

The youths of today are the citizens of tomorrow. The progress and prosperity of a nation depends to a large extent on how well trained and disciplined its youths are. It was in appreciation of this fact that the 4-H movement began in a small way about sixty years ago in rural America as an effort to preserve and stimulate farm youth's interest in agriculture and ensure that their rural heritage was not swallowed up by the country's urban and industrial expansion. The motto of 4-H clubs is "to make the best better". The list of their comprehensive activities ranges from development of new farming practices to promotion of internal co-operation and understanding (Reddy, 1987).

A few of the educated young people of Yellamanchili block formed a secular, non-profit voluntary agency in 1981 as "Youth Charitable Organisation". The main aim of the organisation was to organise the youth of Yellamanchili block to make a participatory action oriented research on socio-economic, cultural situation of the grass-root poor of the area. Through this idea the situation of the poor will be understood by local youth and they themselves fix up a role in the development, through their own efforts, using the Government schemes like Gramodaya, IRDP, etc. generating the income for their sustenance.

With this critical strategy, during the 4 years of its experience the organisation developed better working relations with various groups of people in 10 villages of **the** block. It has also given a chance to organise 30 youth (both men and women) belonging to various parts of ~~the~~ block. After analysing four year's experiences in various kinds of Integrated Rural Development Programmes, **they** had very carefully drawn a project for **the** International Youth Year, 1985.

Activities

The Executive Board of the Youth Charitable Organisation prepared various activities under the International Youth Year, 1985 and promoting as hereunder:

- a. Beggars Rehabilitation Programme
- b. Dairy complex for 25 SC women
- c. Community Development and Skill Oriented Training Programme for Youth (Men and Women)
- d. Social Forestry and Fodder Development Centre
- e. Removing of IPOMIA CARNIA, WATER HI-CHINTA bushes in M.I. Tanks.
- f. Legal aid Programmes (Premkumar, 1985).

A study was conducted by Sundari and Kamalambal entitled "Women and TRYSEM" in 1991 in eight selected blocks of Thanjavur district.

From the study, the investigator concluded that the TRYSEM scheme meant to remove poverty and unemployment among the rural youth, has served the purpose. The TRYSEM scheme can certainly be an effective instrument for women's emancipation through generation of income and employment. It has helped in job creation. By imparting skill, it has helped in raising the bargaining power. The authors feel the scheme can be an effective instrument for women's emancipation and that there is a strong case for extending the scheme to other backward districts.

A study was conducted by Singh, Sharma and Hissar entitled "Overcoming problems of educated unemployed rural youth" in 1992 in Hissar district with a sample of 100 educated unemployed rural youth.

The sailent findings of the study are:

- i. The study has indicated that the educated unemployed rural youth have to encounter a lot of social, psychological and other types of problems

after acquiring education. Because of their rural background, they face difficulties in their placement on jobs for which they possess basic minimum qualifications and competence.

- ii. There is need for incorporation of some important skill learning training in the school education. In addition, training facilities should also be provided at the local points by setting up industrial training institutes in rural areas.
- iii. The need for facilities for counselling and guidance need to be made available for rural youth at the village level at appropriate time. To achieve this, the functioning of employment exchange is required to be reoriented to meet the needs of the rural youth which is so necessary.
- iv. Human efforts are required to be mobilized, organised and used for strategic development of human resource, rural youth.

B. NEHRU YUVA KENDRA

Singh (1985) exhorts that after independence the Government of India realised the importance of the youth of the nation and various programmes were taken

up for their upliftments. The Ministry of Community Development in 1960 recommended the promotion of youth organisations and the training of youth. Consequently some rural youth clubs were started in the country. The purpose of organising the rural youth clubs in India was to develop young people into better farmers and citizens by equipping them with the best skills, attitudes, habits and values of life so as to bring them up as intelligent, well informed and productive citizens of rural community, state and nation.

In the fourth five year plan period, new scheme of incentives to Yuvak mandals was introduced to encourage the village youth. Gram Sevak Training Centres started giving training to rural youth in the fields of kitchen gardening, fruit crops, plantation, poultry farming, bee-keeping, calf rearing, food preservation etc.

Inspite of the multifarious efforts, it was observed that the working of the youth clubs was not found satisfactory due to inadequate provision of initial capital, lack of viability of agricultural land for group project, lack of financial assistance from Government, lack of viability of place and facilities for Rural YOUTH Club (RYC) activities, lack of coordination between village institutions and RYC, lack

of enthusiasm among RYC members, lack of assistance and support from block staff, lack of time for RYC activities, parents' indifference to RYC activities, domestic limitations, poor economic conditions, lack of active leadership, factions in the village and lack of regular guidance and follow up programme.

The Government, therefore, decided to start Nehru Yuva Kendras in each district. It intended to provide a base for youth activities. These kendras are to motivate the youth and coordinate the activities of various Governmental and non-governmental agencies for all round development of the youth.

The National Advisory Board on Youth in its meeting held in December, 1970 recommended taking up of a national programme for non-student youth. On the basis of this recommendation of the Board on Youth, the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India, decided to set up one district youth centre in every district of the country. As a part of the celebration of the silver jubilee year of India's independence, it was decided that the youth centres to be established in the districts be called "Nehru Yuva Kendras" and the programme was inaugurated on 14th November, 1972.

To further strengthen the management, administration and evaluation of the programmes of Nehru Yuva Kendras, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, an autonomous organisation was formed by the Government of India, in February 1987. Now Nehru Yuva Kendras function under the direct supervision of this organisation (Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, 1990).

The objectives of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan are,

- to involve the youth in nation-building activities
- to develop in them such values and skills that will make them responsible and productive citizens of a modern technological India (Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, 1988).

The main objectives of the scheme are based on the ideals of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and popularization of nationally accepted objectives such as self-reliance, socialism, secularism, democracy, national integration and development of scientific temper (Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, 1991).

In furtherance of these objectives, the activities visualised for Nehru Yuva Kendra are as under,

- a. To establish self-reliant youth clubs in rural areas.
- b. Non-formal education including adult education, education in agriculture, family life education, vocational and technical training inter-state youth exchange programme and library services, etc
- c. Social service including work for better rural environment and programmes for social development
- d. Sports and games and physical culture including identification of talents
- e. Recreational and cultural activities by revival of traditional forms of recreation
- f. To equip youth with better ideas and prepare them to face key national threats boldly.

The Nehru Yuva Kendra is not merely an organisation but a movement. The mass base of this movement are the thousands of youth clubs in villages all over India. Today there are 400 Nehru Yuva Kendras in operation in the country at district level. At present, Nehru Yuva Kendras have a network of youth clubs in about 2,00,000 villages. Nehru Yuva Kendra already is the largest grass-root organisation in the country.

At the helm of Nehru Yuva Kendras, is a Board of Governors. The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports is the ex-officio chairperson of the Sangathan. The Director General is the executive authority and is responsible for managing the activities of the Sangathan.

The country is divided into five zones. Each zone, headed by a Zonal Director is responsible for ensuring that the policies and programmes of the sangathan are being properly implemented in the field. Regional Co-ordinators provide supervisory and managerial support to 10-12 Nehru Yuva Kendras. Each Nehru Yuva Kendra is headed by a youth co-ordinator. His role is to headspear the youth movement in his district. A youth Co-ordinator is supported by a team of 5 - 10 National Service Scheme volunteers.

The plan can achieve success especially in rural areas only if the Nehru youth clubs become self reliant, active and strong. The youth clubs are functional units of the Nehru Yuva Kendras. In planning and implementation of the programmes of NYK, the youth clubs play an important and active role (Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, 1990).

The programmes of Nehru Yuva Kendras are:

Training for youth leadership and Self Employment (TYLS), Organising Cultural Activities and Celebrating Festivals, Conducting Work Camps, Organising Vocational Training Programmes, Youth Club Developmental Programme, Arranging Games and Sports, Celebrating Nation Youth Week (Jan 12th to 19th), Agricultural Exchange Programme, Promotion of Adventure and Conducting Great Nehru Trail and Trekking.

NYKS is a Sangathan (Federation) of all the village youth clubs in the country. Youth clubs are the foundation of the NYK movement. To make this foundation strong, the Sangathan has stressed the need for the youth clubs to become self-reliant and self-sufficient that they should raise resources from within the village to fund their activities. The Nehru Yuvas, who are the members of such youth clubs, will take charge of the village development activities. Most of the resources of the Sangathan will go into assisting youth clubs to stand on their own feet and helping them plan and implement their annual action plans.

A multi-state youth co-operative to provide training, quality control and marketing services to

village level cottage enterprises was set up by youth club members. Bye-laws were framed and pre-registration was done for the Cooperative Society (Nehru Yuva Kendra, Coimbatore, 1992).

The programmes under the scheme, individually and collectively, convey composite messages on issues of relevance of rural youth. This helped them in developing the ability to perceive their problems and tackle them democratically and collectively.

The importance of the scheme lies in having created awareness among village youths about their environment, national values, development programmes and activities (Nehru Yuva, 1992).

With a modest beginning of few hundred village level youth clubs, the NYK movement now reaches out through to over 2,50,000 youth clubs in the country. The programmes cover now a much larger number of villages than ever before. Today the Sangathan is in a position to mobilise its outreach system to participate in any national effort or campaign.

In the year 1989 - 90, the Planning Commission evaluated the working of the Nehru Yuva Kendra in the country. A synopsis of the findings and suggestions of the evaluation are given below:

As many as 96.4 per cent of the knowledgeable of the selected villages had expressed their desire that youth clubs must continue as they were assisting the panchayats in their day-to-day functioning and in creating awareness among the people about development programmes, helping in creating assets in the villages and developing organisational skills of the non-student youths in the village in respect of sports and cultural activities.

That 24 per cent of the NYK funds could realise 76 per cent i.e., it could generate more than three times the original amount, reflected the motivation and development spirit among the members of the youth club.

The NYK scheme, in the district had remained peripheral because of its weak infrastructure, meagre funds and paucity of activities. It could not effectively invite the active cooperation of other departments. The youth club members included all classes of society including schedule castes, schedule tribes and women.

The popularity of the NYK scheme and its acceptance among the village youths was observed from the fact that 82.3 per cent of the members of youth clubs were non-student rural youth and 96 per cent were below 35 years of age.

Nearly 86 per cent of the collectors were aware of the role and function of the scheme and the activities undertaken by them.

The NYK scheme has made a dent and its usefulness, particularly, in taking up constructive activities, like Youth Leadership Training Programme (TYLS), National Integration Camps, Social Services, etc., was felt in almost all the villages. In many cases, youth clubs extended their helping hand to village panchayats in solving local disputes as also in taking up works, like construction of village ponds and paths, sanitation, social services, etc. (Nehru Yuva, 1992).

A review of mass based literacy programme in Eastern region in nine districts of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa revealed that concerted efforts must be made now to introduce other community service activities so that on completion of the literacy programme, the lack of developmental activities is not felt. The

enthusiasm generated through the literacy programme must be sustained with suitable programmes organised at the club level (Nehru Yuva, 1992).

Village papal in Amravathi district had long been a profitable ground of illicit liquor production. Papal is a small village and had 16 illicit distilleries. The village youth too were taking to drinking liquor. Disturbed by this trend, the youth club tried hard to stop the production of the breweries. When their persuasive efforts did not yield concrete results, the club launched a crusade to motivate and to involve the village elders, the sarpanch, school teachers and the police in their mission. Undaunted by the problems they faced in the process, they finally succeeded in their effort. The youth club, however, did not rest with their success and started a night vigil to stop smuggling of liquor from the neighbouring villages and prevented all those who had consumed liquor from entering the village. Now the village is free of any illicit distillery (Mohite, 1992).

A novel experiment is underway in Gumla district of Bihar where the youth clubs have taken upon

themselves the responsibility of installing 12 small biogas plants in 12 villages of Kurdeg block. The district administration has already given Rs.44,400,00 to the youth coordinator to complete the job. It has also assured that in the next phase, more biogas plants will be installed through the NYK in other villages. Some youths have already acquired the requisite technical expertise of installing and maintaining these plants (Khanna, 1992).

Methodology

III METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the study on the Activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) in Coimbatore District is discussed under the following headings:

- A. Selection of the Area
- B. Selection of the Sample
- C. Selection of the Method
- D. Selection of the Tools
- E. Preparation of the Tools
- F. Administration of the Tools and
- G. Collection, Consolidation and Analysis of the Data

A. SELECTION OF THE AREA

The area selected for the study was Coimbatore district and it comprised of Kamarajapuram, Sowripalayam, Nallichettipalayam, Pattanam, Pullamadai, Jakkarpalayam, Shennanoor, Puliakulam, Karamadai, Vellalur, Kannampalayam, Sarkarsamakulum, Kunnathur and Perur. The area was selected for the convenience of the investigator as these areas were familiar to the investigator.

B. SELECTION OF THE SAMPLE

A sample is a small proportion of a population selected for observation and analysis (Sidhu, 1984).

Sampling may be defined³ as the selection of some part of an aggregate or totality on the basis of which a judgement or inference about the aggregate or totality is made (Kothari, 1990).

Simple random sampling refers to that sampling technique in which each and every unit of the population has an equal opportunity of being selected in the sample (Gupta, 1991).

Nehru Yuva Kendra executes its programmes in the rural and urban areas through youth clubs and mahalir mandrams. Ten youth clubs and ten mahalir mandrams were selected for the study. A total of 100 members at the rate of 5 members from each of the ten youth clubs and ten mahalir mandrams were selected using the random sampling method.

C. SELECTION OF THE METHOD OF STUDY

The method of study used was survey method.

Survey or experiment is a device of obtaining the desired data (Gupta, 1991).

Sharma et al., (1985) defines survey "as any procedure in which data is systematically collected from a population, or a sample thereof through some form of direct solicitation, such as face to face interviews, telephone interviews or mailed questionnaires.

Survey method was taken up by the investigator to study in depth the activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) in Coimbatore district. Questionnaire to collect information from the youth coordinator, interview to elicit information from youth club and mahalir mandram members and observation method were the methods selected for the study

D. SELECTION OF THE TOOLS

The tools which were selected for the study were questionnaire, interview schedule and observation sheet.

A questionnaire consists of number of questions printed or typed in a definite order on a form or set of forms. The questionnaire is mailed to respondents who are expected to read and understand the questions and write down the reply in the space meant for the purpose in the questionnaire itself (Kothari, 1990).

A questionnaire was used as a tool to collect detailed particulars about the functioning of the NYK from the coordinator.

Interview is a particular form of conversation which a researcher has with individuals from whom he/she expects to obtain information regarding the phenomenon he/she is studying (Johari, 1988).

According to P.V. Young (1984) Interview is a systematic method by which a person enters more or less imaginatively into the life of a comparative stranger.

An interview schedule was used to collect information about the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams from the members.

Observation may be defined as the careful and systematic watching of facts as they occur in the course of nature (Devadas, 1989).

An observation sheet was used to observe the activities of the clubs and peruse the records and registers.

E. PREPARATION OF THE TOOLS

A questionnaire to elicit the detailed particulars of the Nehru Yuva Kendra from the youth coordinator was evolved. The questionnaire consisted items to elicit information like the year of starting NYK in Coimbatore, objectives of NYK, number of youth clubs and Mahalir Mandrams registered, assistance given, administrative set - up, activities, various awards received and future plans of NYK. (This is appended as Appendix - I).

An interview schedule was specially evolved to elicit information from the members of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams. It consisted of questions with regard to background information of the members of youth clubs and mahalir mandrams, knowledge about the activities of the Nehru Yuva Kendra among members and their involvement in activities of youth clubs and mahalir mandrams in the local developmental programmes (This is appended as Appendix - II).

An observation sheet was prepared and was used as a tool to observe the activities of youth clubs and mahalir mandrams. It provided information about the existence of club building, physical assets, balwadi, tailoring classes, adult education class, self

employment training etc. Perusal of records and registers maintained in the clubs provided information with regard to the activities of youth clubs and mahalir mandrams (This is appended as Appendix - III).

F. ADMINISTRATION OF THE TOOLS

After sending the introduction letter from the Dean of Home Science of Avinashilingam Deemed University to the youth coordinator of Nehru Yuva Kendra of Coimbatore district, the investigator personally contacted the youth coordinator and after explaining the purpose of the study, administered the questionnaire and collected the particulars from him.

The investigator after collecting the addresses of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams from the NYK coordinator, personally contacted the members of the clubs. After creating a good rapport with them, the investigator interviewed the members of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams with the help of the specially evolved interview schedule and their responses were recorded in the interview schedule then and there itself. It took nearly an hour to interview and get particulars from one member. Thus 100 members at the rate of 5 members from each of the 10 youth clubs and 5

members from each of the 10 mahalir mandrams were interviewed. It took nearly two months to complete this process.

Observation sheet helped the investigator to observe the activities and assets created by the clubs and perusal of the records and registers maintained by the clubs provided more information about the club activities.

G. COLLECTION, CONSOLIDATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The data thus collected were consolidated, tabulated and analysed using percentages and presented in detail in Chapter IV.

Results and Discussion

IV RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) intends to mobilize the youth (men and women) and organize them into small voluntary groups with the objective of utilizing the energies and the resources of youth in the local developmental programmes of the area. Nehru Yuva Kendra is a nationwide network. It also provides leadership development. The present study is to find out the activities of the Nehru Yuva Kendra in Coimbatore district. The result of the study which was planned and implemented are presented and discussed under the following headings:

- A. Particulars about the functioning of the NYK from the coordinator NYK Coimbatore.
- B.
 - i. Background information of the members of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams.
 - ii. Activities of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams.
- C. Brief account of the observation by the investigator with regard to the club's activities.

**A. PARTICULARS ABOUT THE FUNCTIONING OF THE NYK FROM THE
COORDINATOR NEHRU YUVA KENDRA, COIMBATORE**

The Nehru Yuva Kendra was a Government of India sponsored programme. The objectives of the Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), started in Coimbatore district in 1977, were to involve the youth in nation building activities, to develop their values and skills so that they become responsible and productive citizens of the country.

Among the youth clubs in Coimbatore district, 110 clubs had been registered with NYK and 320 youth clubs had not been registered with NYK. Only 27 mahalir mandrams had been registered with NYK in Coimbatore.

NYK usually gave Rs.1000/- for selected youth clubs for conducting sports activities.

The administrative set up of NYK consisted of Director General, Zonal Directors, Regional Coordinator, Youth Coordinator and National Service Volunteers Scheme (NSVS). There were 6 NSVS (three females and three males) in every district NYK.

A minimum of 20 members were necessary in each youth club to be registered with NYK. Youth clubs were registered under the recommendation of NSVS.

The different activities conducted by NYK for youth clubs were; training for youth leadership and self employment, cultural activities, work camps, vocational and skill development training programmes, youth club development programme, conducting games and sports, celebration of national youth week, literacy programmes, etc. The activities were carried out according to the annual plan.

The objectives of work camp were to promote a feeling of self help and to inculcate a feeling of dignity of labour. According to the village needs and youth club needs, activities were given priority in the action plan.

The camps were conducted for the youth club members to work out project details with youth.

Training for Youth Leadership and Self Employment (TYLS) Programmes were conducted for 15 days. 25 people were selected for one TYLS programme.

The future plans of the NYK were:

- i) Starting of self reliant youth clubs
- ii) Achieving 100 per cent literacy in Coimbatore district.

- iii) Starting oorukku pathu per scheme
- iv) Starting more vocational training programmes under self employment scheme
- v) Starting more women clubs
- vi) Involving youths in adventure activities and youth leadership training programmes.

B. i. BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH CLUBS AND MAHALIR MANDRAMS

A sample of 100 (50 men and 50 women) members of youth clubs and mahalir mandrams were taken for the study.

The age range of the members of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams is given in the Table 1.

TABLE I
AGE RANGE OF THE MEMBERS

S.No	Age range	Youth Clubs		Mahalir Mandrams	
		Number N=50	Percentage %	Number N=50	Percentage %
1	16 -20 years	9	18	5	10
2	21 -25 years	19	38	5	10
3	26 -30 years	10	20	15	30
4	31 -35 years	4	8	11	22
5	36 -40 years	4	8	5	10
6	41 -45 years	4	8	9	18

The table reveals that out of a sample of 50 youth club members taken for the study, 38 per cent belonged to the age range of 21 - 25 years, 20 per cent in the range 26 - 30 years and there were 8 per cent who belonged to the maximum age range 41 - 45 years.

Out of 50 mahalir mandrams, 30 per cent of the mahalir mandram members belonged to the age range of 26 - 30, 22 per cent to the range 31 - 35 years and 18 per cent belonged to the maximum age range 41 - 45 years.

Educational level of the members of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams is given in the Table II.

TABLE II
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THE MEMBERS

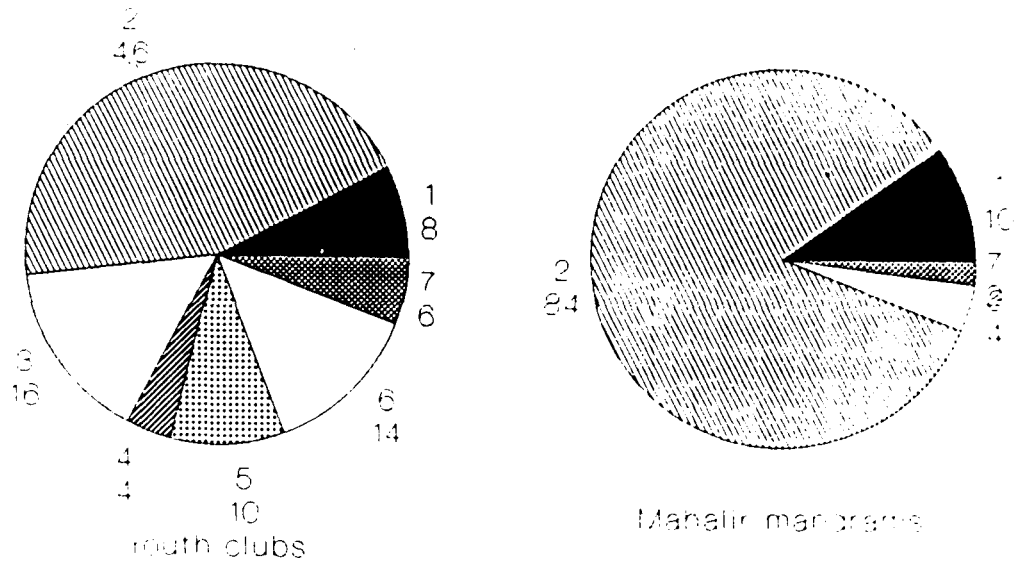
S.No	Educational level	Youth Clubs		Mahalir mandrams	
		Number N =50	Percentage %	Number N=50	Percentage %
1	Primary	4	8	5	10
2	Middle/High/ Higher secondary	23	46	42	84
3	Degree	8	16	2	4
4	P.G & Professional	2	4	-	-
5	Diploma/ITI	5	10	-	-
6	Studying	7	14	-	-
7	Illiterate	3	6	1	2

From the above table, it could be seen that, 46 per cent of the youth club members had studied upto middle, high and higher secondary levels, 14 per cent were studying and 4 per cent of the youth club members had studied P.G and professional courses. Six per cent were illiterates.

84 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had studied upto middle, high and higher secondary levels. 10 per cent had studied upto primary level and 2 per cent were illiterates. This is diagrammatically represented in the form of a Pie diagram. (Fig.1)

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THE MEMBERS

45a



YOUTH CLUBS

1. Primary
2. Middle/High/Higher secondary
3. Degree
4. P.G. and Professional
5. Diploma / I.T.I.
6. Studying
7. Illiterates

FIG I

Occupations of the members of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams are presented in the Table III.

TABLE III
OCCUPATION OF THE MEMBERS

S.No	Occupation	Youth clubs		Mahalir mandrams	
		Number N = 50	Percentage %	Number N = 50	Percentage %
1	Teacher	2	4	8	16
2	Clerk	1	2	1	2
3	Worker/ labourer	18	36	4	8
4	Agriculturist	10	20	5	10
5	Business	10	20	2	4
6	Unemployed/ housewife	9	18	30	60

The above table shows that 36 per cent of the youth club members were engaged in the occupation as workers and labourers, 18 per cent were unemployed and 4 per cent were working as teachers.

Majority (60 per cent) of the mahalir mandram members were housewives, 16 per cent were teachers, 4 per cent business and 2 per cent were working as clerks.

ii) ACTIVITIES OF THE YOUTH CLUBS AND MAHALIR MANDRAMS

It was gathered from the members of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams that most of the mahalir mandrams and youth clubs were started in 1986 - 90 and 1991 - 92 respectively.

The objectives of the clubs as given by the members are presented in the Table IV.

TABLE IV
OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUBS

S.No	Objectives	Youth Clubs		Mahalir mandrams	
		Number N = 50	Percentage %	Number N = 50	Percentage %
1	Construction work	5	10	10	20
2	Social service	35	70	12	24
3	Youth development	6	12	-	-
4	Women development	-	-	15	30
5	Improve the literacy level	26	52	10	20
6	Conduct vocational Training	14	28	10	20
7	Organise medical camps	-	-	10	20
8	Others	11	22	5	10

* Multiple responses

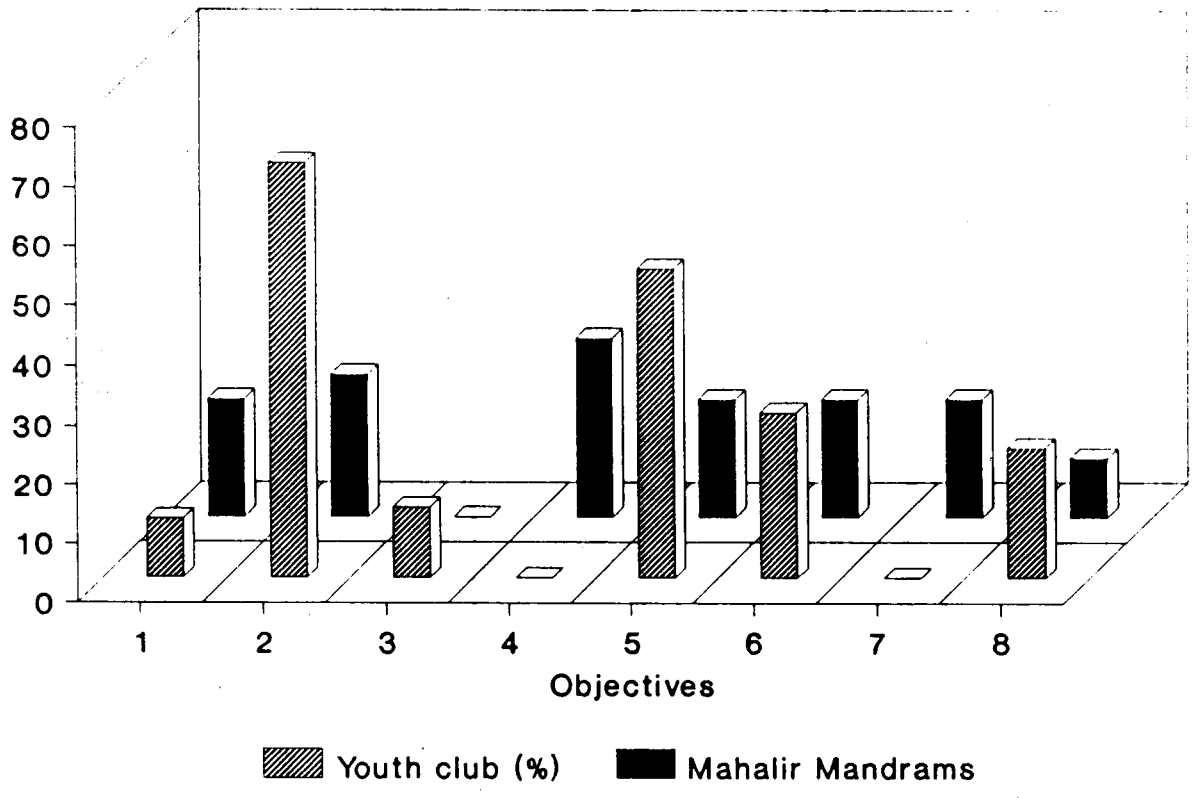
The Table No.IV indicates that 70 per cent of the youth club members had stated that the main objective was doing social service, 52 per cent had stated improving the literacy level of the local people and 10 per cent had viewed as construction of the school building for their village as the main objective.

30 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had said that the main objective of mahalir mandram was women development. 24 per cent had stated as social service and 20 per cent each as raise literacy level of the local people, construction of school building and arranging vocational training for their development and provide the medical services for the poor. This is diagrammatically represented in the form of a bar diagram. (Fig.2).

The posts of President and Secretary of youth clubs and mahalir mandrams were filled by elections every year during general body meeting of the members.

All the youth clubs were organised following the guidelines given by the government. The government had given certain restrictions like the member should

OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUBS



- 1. Construction work
- 2. Social service
- 3. Youth development
- 4. Women development
- 5. Improve the literacy level
- 6. Conduct vocational training
- 7. Organise medical camps
- 8. Others

FIG II

be non political individuals, no drug addicts, not to involve in violence etc. These restrictions were strictly adhered to by the youth clubs under study.

Out of 10 mahalir mandrams, 7 mahalir mandrams were very strict in following the restrictions whereas 3 had relaxed certain restrictions.

All the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams affiliated to NYK were collecting 50 paise per month from each member and the money thus collected was utilised for the conduct of meeting, transport, medical camps and help for the poor.

In all the 10 youth clubs and 10 mahalir mandrams under study, even though these organisations used to arrange meetings of the members regularly, the attendance of the members for the meetings was not very regular.

Matters discussed in the meetings are given in the Table V.

TABLE V
MATTERS DISCUSSED IN THE MEETINGS

S.No	Matters	Youth Clubs		Mahalir mandrams	
		Number N = 50	Percentage* %	Number N = 50	Percentage* %
1	Environment cleanliness	15	30	16	32
2	Basic needs like water/light/road facilities	45	90	23	46
3	Self employment	15	30	29	58
4	Literacy/saving	10	20	8	16
5	Medical services	10	20	19	38
6	Area development	5	10	15	30

* Multiple responses

The above table shows that 90 per cent of the members of youth clubs had stated that the clubs had discussed about the basic needs of the people like regular water supply, proper lights and road facilities, 20 per cent had said that they had discussed about improving the educational level and encouraging the savings and providing proper medical services.

58 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had said that the members had discussed about various self employment programmes, 30 per cent had said that they had discussed about area development.

All the youth club and mahalir mandram members had stated that the clubs had discussed about the local community problems/needs and used to discuss the solutions for the problems/needs. They used to take up the programmes of activities through group discussions in their regular meetings.

Table VI shows about the types of assistance to the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams.

TABLE VI
TYPES OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE PEOPLE

S.No	Types	Youth clubs		Mahalir mandrams	
		Number N =50	Percentage* %	Number N = 50	Percentage* %
1	Donations from people	30	60	20	40
2	Physical assistance from people	25	50	20	40
3	Encourage the club members to carry out the activities	5	10	20	40
4	Local people extended co-operation	25	50	40	80
5	Provide the materials to the club	-	-	10	20

*Multiple responses

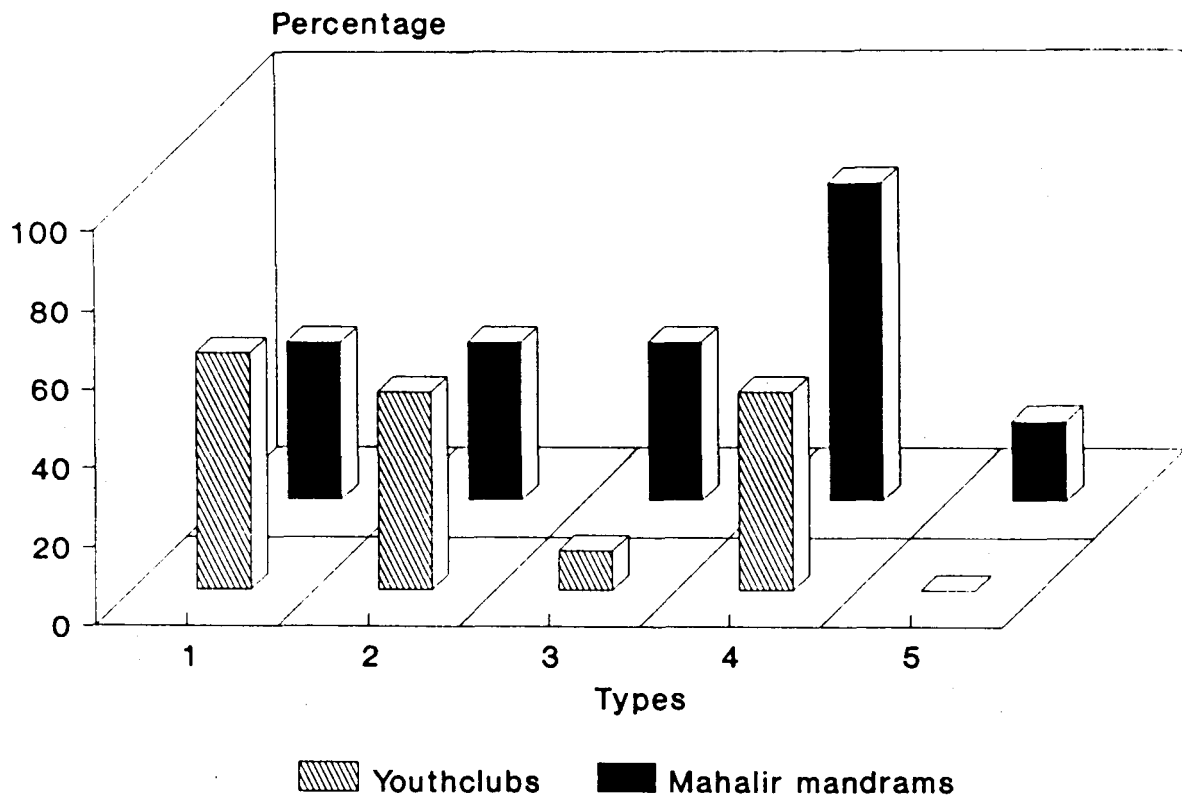
The above table indicates that 60 per cent of the youth club members had stated that they had received donations from people, 50 per cent of the youth club members had said that they had got

physical help from the people and the people had cooperated with the clubs to carryout all the activities.

80 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had expressed that the mandrams had got cooperation from the people, 40 per cent members had said that they had got financial, physical assistance from people and the people had encouraged the members, 20 per cent members had viewed that the people had helped the clubs by providing materials like mike, light, garlands and prizes for winners and blankets, vessels, utensils, milk powder, cash for free distribution to the Sri Lanka refugee camps. This is diagramatically represented in the form of a bar diagram (Fig.3).

Table VII shows the programmes undertaken by the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams.

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE PEOPLE



1. Donations from people
2. Physical assistance
3. Encourage the club members
4. Cooperation
5. Provide the materials to the club

FIG III

TABLE VII
PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN BY THE CLUBS

S.No	Programmes	Youth Clubs		Mahalir mandrams	
		Number N = 50	Percentage* %	Number N=50	Percentage* %
1	Self employment programmes	10	20	35	70
2	Sanitation/water/light	30	60	20	40
3	Medical services	15	30	20	40
4	Literacy	10	20	10	20
5	Area development	20	40	15	30

* Multiple responses

The above table shows that 60 per cent of the youth club members had said that the youth clubs had taken up the activities with regard to improvement of sanitary condition, water supply and lighting in the village, 20 per cent had said that their activities had improved the literacy level of the village and also helped in self employment programmes.

70 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had said that they had helped the women by conducting training programmes for self employment and 20 per cent had said their activity had improved the literacy level of the village. (Plates 1,2,3, and 4)

Table VIII shows the nature of assistance received to the clubs from NYK.

TABLE VIII
ASSISTANCE FROM NYK

S.No	Nature of Assistance	Youth clubs		Mahalir mandrams	
		Number N = 50	Percentage* %	Number N = 50	Percentage* %
1	Guidance	15	30	9	18
2	Tailoring machine	5	10	10	20
3	Free books/ sports materials	20	40	11	22
4	Training Programme	10	20	10	20
5	Fund	20	40	15	30
6	Nil	25	50	25	50

* Multiple responses

The above table indicates that 50 per cent of the youth club and mahalir mandram members had stated



PLATE 1 LITERACY CLASS CONDUCTED BY NAMAULI MANDRAM MEMBER



PLATE 2 HEALTH CAMP ORGANISED BY NAMAULI MANDRAM



PLATE 3 SPORTS DAY ORGANISED BY YOUTH CLUB



PLATE 4 JAWAHAR CYCLE YATHRA FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION

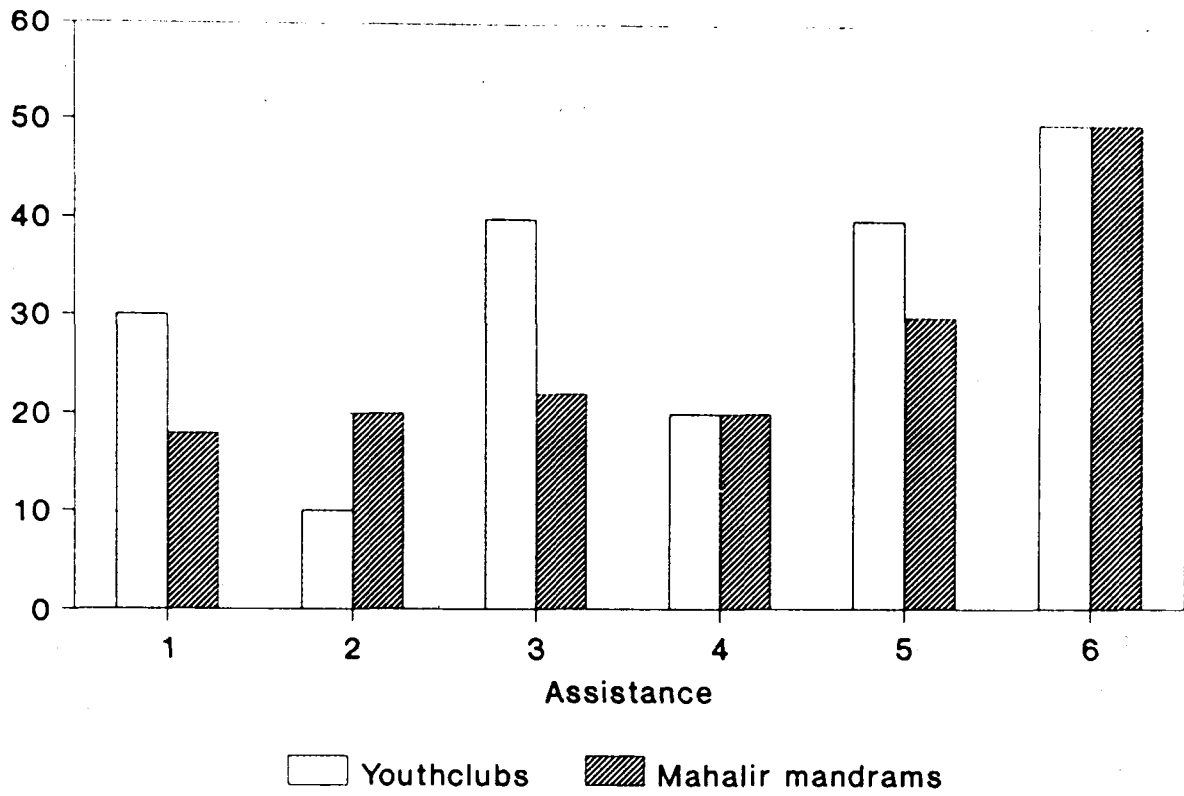
that the clubs had not received any assistance from NYK, 40 per cent had said that the youth clubs had got free books, sports materials and fund from NYK and 10 per cent had opined that the youth clubs had got tailoring machines from NYK.

In the case of mahalir mandrams, 22 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had said that the club had received free books and sports materials, 18 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had said that they had been benefited by getting guidance from NYK. This is diagrammatically represented in the form of a bar diagram. (Fig.4)

The expectations of the clubs from NYK are given in the Table IX.

ASSISTANCE FROM NYK

56a



1. Guidance
2. Tailoring machine
3. Free books/sports materials
4. Training Programme
5. Fund
6. Nil

FIG IV

TABLE IX
EXPECTATIONS OF THE CLUBS FROM NYK

S.No	Expectations	Youth clubs		Mahalir mandrams	
		Number N = 50	percentage* %	Number N = 50	Percent* tage%
1	Financial assistance	25	50	30	60
2	Self employment	40	80	35	70
3	Building for school and nursery	10	20	10	20
4	NIL	5	10	10	20

* Multiple responses

From the above table, it could be seen that 80 per cent of the youth clubs and 70 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had stated that the expectation of the clubs was that the NYK would organise self-employment training programmes, 50 per cent of the youth club and 60 per cent mahalir mandram members had said that the clubs were expecting financial assistance from NYK to carry out various programmes.

10 per cent of the youth club and 20 per cent of the mahalir mandram members were expecting nothing from the NYK.

Table X shows the future plans of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams as expressed by the members.

TABLE X
FUTURE PLANS OF THE CLUBS

S.No	Future plans	Youth clubs		Mahalir mandrams	
		Number N =50	Percentage* tage%	Number N=50	Percentage* %
1	Literacy classes	35	70	25	50
2	Sanitation	15	30	25	50
3	Medical services	10	20	20	40
4	Self employment training	30	60	35	70
5	Others	30	60	20	40

*Multiple responses

The above table shows that 70 per cent of the youth club and 50 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had stated that the clubs had planned to conduct literacy classes in the future, 60 per cent youth club and 70 per cent mahalir mandram members

intend to organise self - employment training programmes and 20 per cent of the youth club and 40 per cent mahalir mandram members had said that the clubs intend to organise medical camps.

The successful programmes of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams are given in the table XI.

TABLE XI
SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMMES OF THE CLUBS

S.No	Programmes	Youth clubs		Mahalir mandrams	
		Number N = 50	percentage* %	Number N = 50	Percentage* %
1	Adult education/ Nursery school/ coaching classes	35	70	30	60
2	Medical services	35	70	30	60
3	Help the poor people	15	30	30	60
4	Self employment training	20	40	40	80
5	Environment cleanliness	15	30	20	40
6	Construct the building	5	10	-	-
7	Tree planatation	30	60	20	40
8	Road/water/Electri- city	25	50	15	30
9	Functions/meetings	20	40	25	50
10	Others	20	40	15	30

*Multiple responses

Generally a feeling of satisfaction of the achievements of the successful conduct of the projects was found among the member of youth clubs and mahalir mandrams from their expressions while summing up their achievements.

70 per cent of the youth club members and 60 per cent of mahalir mandram members had stated that they had conducted adult education classes successfully, arranged free medical services to the people. 50 per cent of the youth club members had said that the club had taken measures for the regular supply of drinking water, proper road facilities and lighting facilities for the village, 10 per cent members had said that the club had constructed buildings for their clubs and 40 per cent had said that the clubs had successfully carried out other programmes like cycle rally and arivoli iyakkam jatha and to organise the noon meal centre etc.

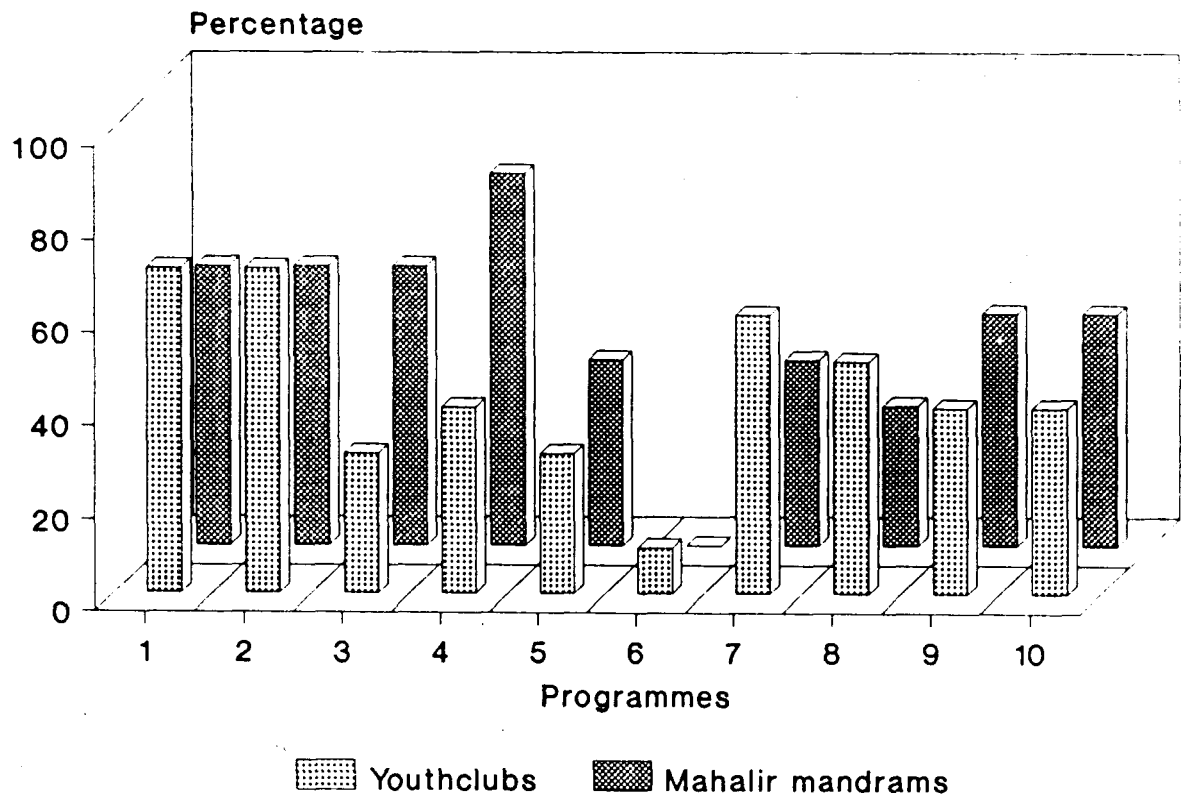
80 per cent of the mahalir mandram members felt that the club had successfully conducted self employment training programmes and 30 per cent had expressed that the club had arranged for regular water supply, proper road facilities and lighting facilities for the village and other programmes (30

per cent) like cycle rally and arivoli iyakkam jatha and to organise the noon meal centre etc. This is diagrammatically represented in the form of bar diagram. (Fig.5) (Plates 5,6,7 and 8).

C. A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE OBSERVATION BY THE INVESTIGATOR WITH REGARD TO THE CLUBS' ACTIVITIES

The physical assets and some of the activities of youth clubs and mahalir mandrams were personally observed by the investigator.

SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMMES OF THE CLUBS



1. Adult education/Nursery school/Tuition
2. Medical service
3. Help the poor people
4. Self employment training
5. Environment cleanliness
6. Construct the building
7. Tree plantation
8. Road/Water/Electricity
9. Functions/ Meetings
10. Others

FIG V



PLATE 5 NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK CELEBRATION



PLATE 6 CULTURAL PROGRAMME BY YOUTH



PLATE 7 COMMUNITY GARDEN PUT UP BY YOUTH CLUB



PLATE 8 WOOLEN SWEATER MAKING

The observations are given in the Table XII.

TABLE XII
OBSERVATION OF THE ACTIVITIES

S.No	Activities	Youth clubs	Mahalir mandrams
		Number * N = 10	Number * N = 10
1	Existence of separate building for the club	7	6
2	Conducting balwadi	3	4
3	Organisation of tailoring classes	2	5
4	Constructed school building	4	4
5	Arranged tree plantation	8	6
6	Celebration of youth week	5	3
7	Celebration of the women's day	1	5
8	Conduct adult education classes	9	9
9	Organisation of immunization camps	8	5
10	Receipt of funds from NYK	1	3
11	Upkeep and maintenance of records	8	7
12	Receipt of youth club award	-	1
13	Receipt of best youth award	2	1
14	Organisation of TYLS self employment training	5	6

* Multiple responses

Adult education classes were conducted in 9 youth clubs. In 8 youth clubs, trees were planted, immunization camps were conducted and the records were properly maintained. In 7 youth clubs, there was separate building for the club. In 5 youth clubs, youth week had been celebrated and self employment training programme were conducted. 3 youth clubs had balwadis of their own. In 2 youth clubs, the tailoring classes were conducted and best youth award had been received by two youth club members, women's day had been celebrated and they had received funds from NYK.

9 Mahalir mandrams had conducted adult education classes. In 7 mahalir mandrams records were properly maintained. In 6 mahalir mandrams trees were planted and there were separate buildings of their own and self employment trainings were conducted. In 5 mahalir mandrams, immunization camps were conducted and women's day was celebrated and also they had started the tailoring classes. In 3 mahalir mandrams, youth week had been celebrated and they had received funds from NYK. 4 mahalir mandrams had balwadis of their own. One mahalir mandram at Rathinapuri had received best women youth club award

from Government of India for its activities and programmes. The youth club at Shennanoor was adjudged as the best club for its activities and was awarded the best youth club award for 1991 - 1992 by the Government of India. 4 mahalir mandrams had constructed the school building in their villages.

Summary and Conclusion

V SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

A study of the Nehru Yuva Kendra activities in Coimbatore district was undertaken in Kamarajapuram, Sowripalayam, Nallichettipalayam, Pattanam, Pullamadai, Jakkarpalayam, Shennanoor, Puliakulum, Karamadai, Vellalur, Kannampalayam, Sarkarsamakulam, Kunnathur and Perur of Coimbatore district. The youth clubs and mahila mandrams are the functional units of the Nehru Yuva Kendras. The Nehru Yuva Kendra coordinator and a total of 100 members - 50 from youth clubs and 50 from mahalir mandrams constituted the sample for the study. The questionnaire, the interview conducted with an interview schedule and observation were the methods used by the investigator for the collection of the data. The following is the summary of the findings of the study.

The particulars as given by the NYK coordinator are summarised and presented hereunder:

1. Nehru Yuva Kendra was started in 1977 in Coimbatore district. The objectives of NYK were to organise and involve the youth in nation building activities, to develop their values and skills so that they become responsible and productive citizens of the country. Among the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams in Coimbatore district, 110 clubs

had been registered with NYK and 320 youth clubs had not been registered with NYK. Only 27 mahalir mandrams had been registered in NYK in Coimbatore. NYK receives financial assistance from central government. NYK usually gave Rs.1000/- for selected youth clubs for conducting sports. A minimum 20 members were necessary in each youth club to be registered in NYK. Youth clubs were registered under the recommendation of NSVS.

The different activities conducted by NYK for youth clubs were: Training for Youth Leadership and Self Employment (TYLS), cultural activities, work camps, vocational and skill development training programmes, youth club development programme, conducting games and sports; celebration of national youth week, literacy programmes and others related to youth. The activities were carried out according to the annual plan. The objectives of work camp were to promote feeling of self help and to inculcate feeling of dignity of labour. According to the village needs and youth club needs, activities would be given priority in the action plan. The camps were conducted for the youth club members to work out project details with youth. Training for youth leadership and self employment (TYLS) programmes were conducted for 15 days. 25 people were selected for one TYLS programme.

The future plans of the NYK were:

- i. Starting of self reliant youth clubs
 - ii. Achieving 100 per cent literacy in Coimbatore District
 - iii. Starting oorukku pathu per scheme
 - iv. Starting more vocational training programmes under self employment scheme
 - v. Starting more women clubs
 - vi. Involving youths in adventure activities and youth leadership training programmes.
- II. Responses of the members of youth clubs and mahalir mandrams
2. A sample of 100 club members taken randomly (50 members of 10 youth clubs with age range of 15-45 years and 50 members from 10 mahalir mandrams whose age range was 15 - 45 years) were selected for the study.
 3. 70 per cent of the youth club members had stated that the clubs' main objective was doing social service, 52 per cent had said improving the education level of the local people and 10 per cent had said construction of the school building for their village as the main objective. 30 per cent

of the mahalir mandram members had said that the main objective was women development, ~~their development~~, 24 per cent had said doing social service, 20 per cent each as raise literacy level of the local people, construction of school building and arranging vocational training for their development and provide the medical services for the poor.

4. The posts of President and Secretary of the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams were filled every year during general body meetings of the members.
5. All the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams taken for the study had been registered with NYK.
6. All the youth clubs were organised following the guidelines given by the government. The government had given certain restrictions like the member should be non-political individual, no drug addicts, should not have involved in violence, etc. These restrictions were strictly adhered to by the youth clubs under study. Out of 10 mahalir mandrams, 7 mahalir mandrams were very strict in following the guidelines whereas 3 mahalir mandrams had relaxed some of the restrictions.

7. All the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams affiliated to NYKS were collecting 50 paise per month from each member and the money thus collected was utilised for the conduct of meeting, transport, medical camps and help for the poor.
8. Majority (90 per cent) of the youth club members had said that they used to discuss about the basic needs of the people like regular water supply, street lights, and road facilities, 20 per cent had said that they had discussed about improving the educational level and encouraging and savings and providing proper medical services, 58 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had stated that they used to discuss about various self employment programmes. 30 per cent of mahalir mandram members viewed that they used discussed about the area development.
9. All the youth club and mahalir mandram members had stated that they used^{to} discuss the local community problems/needs, find the solutions for the problems /needs and take up the programmes of activities through group discussions in their regular meetings.

10. 60 per cent of the youth club members had said that they had received donations from people, 50 per cent of the youth club members had stated that they had got physical help from the people and the people cooperated with the club to carryout all the activities. 80 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had expressed that the mandrams had got cooperation from the people, 40 per cent members had stated that they had got financial, physical assistance from people and the people had encouraged the members, 20 per cent members had viewed that the people had helped the clubs by providing materials like mike, light, garlands and prizes for winner and blankets, clothes, vessels, utensils, milk powder, cash for free distribution to the Sri Lanka refugee camps.

11. 50 per cent of the youth club members and mahalir mandram members had stated that they had not received any assistance from NYK, 40 per cent of the youth clubs had got free books, sports materials and fund from NYK and 10 per cent of the youth clubs had got tailoring machines from NYK. In case of mahalir mandrams, 22 per cent of the mahalir mandrams had received free books and sports

materials. 18 per cent of the mahalir mandrams had been benefited by getting guidance from NYK.

12. Out of the sample of 100 club members, 80 per cent of the youth clubs and 70 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had expressed that the clubs were expecting that the NYK would organise self-employment training programme, 50 per cent of the youth club members had said that the mandrams were expecting financial assistance from NYK to carryout the various programmes. 60 per cent of the mahalir mandram members were expecting adequate financial assistance from NYK to carryout the various programmes and 20 per cent had viewed that the mahalir mandram were not expecting anything from NYK.

13. 70 per cent of the youth club members and 50 per cent of mahalir mandram members had stated that they had planned to conduct literacy classes in the future and 20 per cent had said that the clubs intend to organise the medical camps. The future plans of the mahalir mandrams as given by 70 per cent of the members

were to conduct self - employment training programmes for women, 50 per cent had stated improving the sanitary condition of the village. 40 per cent had felt that medical camps should be organised.

14. 70 per cent of the youth club members and 60 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had stated that they had conducted adult education classes successfully and arranged free medical services to the people, 50 per cent of the youth club members had said that the clubs had taken measures for the regular supply of drinking water, proper road facilities and lighting facilities for the village and 10 per cent members had viewed that the clubs had constructed buildings for their clubs and 40 per cent had said that the clubs had successfully carried out other programmes like cycle rally and arivoli iyakkam/jatha and to organise the noon meal centre. 80 per cent of the mahalir mandram members had felt that the club had successfully conducted self employment training programmes and 30 per cent opined that the club had arranged for regular water supply, proper road facilities and lighting facilities for the village and other programmes (30 per cent) like cycle rally and arivoli iyakkam jatha and to organise the noon meal centre etc.

III. The investigator observed activities of the club and her observations are summarised below:

15. Adult education classes were conducted in 9 youth clubs. In 8 youth clubs, trees were planted, immunization camps were conducted and the records were properly maintained. In 7 youth clubs there were separate buildings for the club. In 5 youth clubs, youth week had been celebrated and self employment training programme were conducted. 3 youth clubs had organised balwadi of their own. In 2 youth clubs, the training classes were conducted and best youth award had been received and in one youth club, women's day had been celebrated and they had received fund from NYK.

In 9 mahalir mandrams, adult education classes had been conducted. In 7 mahalir mandrams records were properly maintained. In 6 mahalir mandrams trees were planted and there were separate buildings of their own and self employment training programmes were conducted. In 5 mahalir mandrams, immunization camps were conducted and women's day celebrated and also they had started the tailoring class. In 3 mahalir mandrams, youth week had been celebrated and they had received

fund from NYK. 4 mahalir mandrams had balwadis of their own and also they had constructed the school building for their villages. One mahalir mandram at Rathinapuri had received best women youth club award from Government of India for its activities and programmes. The youth club at Shennanoor was adjudged as the best club for its activities and was awarded the best youth club award for 1991 - 92 by the Government of India.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations that emerge out of the study are:

1. It will be advisable to mobilize the youth of the village and encourage them to organise the youth clubs and mahalir mandrams in all the villages.
2. The block development personnel and NYK coordinator should coordinate and monitor the functioning of the clubs and provide them assistance in the form of financial or technical know how.
3. All the youths of the villages should be motivated through public meetings, campaigns, discussions to join the clubs.

4. The elders of the village should encourage and support the different developmental programmes launched by the clubs.

CONCLUSION

The Nehru Yuva Kendra is a popular organisation to mobilize the youth who are the supreme symbol of strength of the nation. The youth clubs and mahalir mandrams which are the functional and operative units of Nehru Yuva Kendra, are massive organised cadre which when channelised in the proper direction will help to shape better personalities in addition to their participation in nation building activities for a prosperous future India.

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Appendices

APPENDIX I

**AVINASHILINGAM INSTITUTE FOR HOME SCIENCE AND HIGHER
EDUCATION FOR WOMEN (DEEMED UNIVERSITY) COIMBATORE 641 043**

**QUESTIONNAIRE TO COLLECT INFORMATION FROM
THE YOUTH COORDINATOR**

1. Name
2. Place
3. Age
4. Education
5. Occupation
6. Address

7. When was NYK started in Coimbatore ?

8. What are the objectives of NYK ?

9. How many youth clubs are registered in NYK in Coimbatore District ?

10. How many mahalir mandrams are registered in NYK in Coimbatore District ?

11. How much of financial assistance you get for each club from the Government?
12. What is the administrative set up of the NYK ?
13. How many NSVS are there ?
14. How many NSV women members are there ?
15. How many NSV men members are there ?
16. How will you register a new youth club ?
17. Is there any restriction for registering a new youth club ?
18. How many members must be there in the youth club to be registered in NYK ?
19. What are the activities conducted by NYK for youth clubs ?

	YES/NO
i. Training for youth leadership and self employment	()
ii. Cultural activities	()
iii. Work camps	()
iv. Vocational Training Programme	()
v. Youth club development programme	()
vi. Games and sports	()
vii. Celebrate the National Youth Week	()
viii. Other activities	()

20. How will you plan the activities ?

21. What are the objectives of the work camps ?

22. How will you conduct the camps for the youth club members ?

23. For how many days the TYLS programmes are conducted ?

24. How many youths are selected for the TYLS Programme ?

25. What are the future plans of the NYK ?

APPENDIX II

AVINASHILINGAM INSTITUTE FOR HOME SCIENCE AND HIGHER
EDUCATION FOR WOMEN (DEEMED UNIVERSITY) COIMBATORE 43

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE TO COLLECT INFORMATION FROM THE
YOUTH CLUB / MAHALIR MANDRAM MEMBERS

1. Name
2. Place
3. Age
4. Education
5. Occupation
6. Address

7. When was your youth club/mahalir mandram started ?

8. What are the objectives of the club ?

9. How the President and Secretary are elected ?

10. Are you having any restrictions in your club ?

11. Is there any membership fee ?
12. If Yes, how are you utilising the money ?
13. Do all the members attend the meetings?
14. What are the matters discussed in the meetings ?
15. Do you discuss about the local community problem/needs ?
16. Do you discuss solutions for the problem/need ?
17. In which way the people are helping to carryout the programme ?
18. How do these programmes help in village development?
19. What are the assistance you are getting from NYK ?
20. What are you expecting from NYK ?
21. What are your future plans in order to improve the village ?
22. Explain the successful programmes carried out in the village ?

APPENDIX III

AVINASHILINGAM INSTITUTE FOR HOME SCIENCE AND HIGHER
EDUCATION FOR WOMEN (DEEMED UNIVERSITY) COIMBATORE 43

OBSERVATION SHEET

S.No	Existence of
1	Existence of separate building for the club
2	Conducting Balwadi
3	Organisation of Tailoring class
4	Constructed school building
5	Arranged tree plantation
6	Celebration of the youth week
7	Celebration of women's day
8	Conduct adult education class
9	Organisation of immunization camp
10	Fund from NYK
11	Upkeep and maintainance of records
12	Receipt of youth club award
13	Receipt of best youth award
14	Organisation of TYLS and self employment training
