



# Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena Sansadaya Five year strategic Plan - 2010 to 2015

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# Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena Sansadaya

## Five year strategic Plan - 2010 to 2015

### 1. Introduction

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A strategic plan for any organization for any length of duration would be an important tool to have a clear vision of what can be done with available resources and expected inputs. Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena the youth wing of the Sarvodaya Movement founded by Dr A.T.Ariyaratne fifty years ago, has been in the field of harnessing the youth and their exuberance for useful purposes.. The 3 decade long experience of Shnathi Sena in taking initiatives in peace building, by conducting peace dialogs, inter-religious dialogues in order to build bridges among the different ethnic and religious communities were reviewed Through the youth leadership that was built it was possible to build volunteer teams for rapid deployment in times of emergencies, and generally trained the youth for primary health care activity and environment conservation were copiously used in preparing the strategic plan.

Preliminary preparations included holding workshops with officials, village based volunteer leaders, National and District level staff members, the Board of Directors, to get their views to help the outside resource persons to draft a strategic plan for the next 5 years. The Sarvodaya Movement too has compiled vision declaration for the next 50 years under the title “ Sarvodaya Path to a New century” which influenced us in preparing the strategic plan It was also taken into consideration that Sri Lanka has emerged as a force that could create an environment to bring peace and rebuild the Nation our own role too has to be viewed in that context. Hence a new look action plans are in the offing in order to make a meaningful contribution

### 2. The social context Analysis

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#### 2.1 Population base

Sri Lanka consists of a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural population. This is amply demonstrated by the last complete census taken in 1981 covering the whole island: 74 % were Sinhalese, 18.1 % were Sri Lankan and Indian Tamils, 7.1 % were Muslims, and 0.8% were Burgers and Malays.

Due to the prevailing war a more recent census of the whole Island was not administered. However, with the exception of displacement and a few demographic shifts, there does not seem to be any significant population changes.

According to the 1981 census, the religious diversity has been recorded as 69.3% Buddhist, 15.5% Hindus, 7.6% Islam, 7.5% Roman Catholics and Christians. Considering the geographical and historical situation, this distribution is unique to the Sri Lankan society. The different ethnic and religious communities have been influenced by each other, resulting in many sub-cultures. Through interacting and enriching each other, these cultures have generally peacefully co-existed in Sri Lanka.



The social response to the demographics was altered by the colonial rule which shaped the socio-economic, cultural, and political destinies of Sri Lanka. The influence of colonialism was so strong that even after independence; the social demographics did not change very much. The mishandling of ethnic and religious diversity has sewn the seeds of discord which has led to the present impasse. The political and economic pattern of the 70s further aggravated the situation. The colonial and post-colonial periods marked a time of heightened ethnic, religious and cultural divisions, rather than a time of unity, which was desired. Through this background, it is possible to identify and experience challenges in all spheres.

## 2.2 Social background

Many changes are taking place in the social background in terms of the family set up. This is seen in the example of the traditional family which is changing into a nuclear family. By and large the parents are struggling to make the ends meet. The children are compelled to grapple with an examination oriented educational system which is very competitive in nature. The inter personal relationships in the family is dwindling as there is hardly any time for leisure or recreation. The spiritual base that was present in the family has broken down. The family, interacting with the community should form a society with solidarity among its members, yet now, it is giving way to loneliness of individualism. In this scenario, it has become a great challenge to maintain the social coexistence and harmony among the larger family and the society. With the lack of interpersonal dialogue, mental stress has increased. Influenced by this phenomenon, the suicide rate is increasing; the crime is also increasing at an alarming rate. According to police records in 2008, there have been 430,000 crimes committed. Of this, 9000 are crimes committed by women. Domestic violence is equally alarming. The daily incidents of domestic violence show that it is an unmistakable trend in Sri Lankan society. The rampant violence against women and children shows a social and spiritual decline in the county. The prevailing culture of political differences has also led to much violence, such as riots, and assassinations. The violent confrontations of some political parties are common in the news

## 2.3 Alcoholism and its repercussions on the society

Alcoholism and drug abuse are two issues that have become a priority. According to a survey by Dr D. J. Preethipan and Dr G.V.weeratane, most of the victims of drug and alcohol abuse are youth. According to this survey, drug and alcohol consumption by age is as follows:

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| 10 to 20 years | 70.1%  |
| 21 to 30 years | 22.8 % |
| 31 to 40 years | 5.5 %  |
| Over 40 years  | 1.6 %  |

It is undoubtable that the children and youth are most affected. Many repercussions arise from this situation. It affects the education, development and health areas that would take the brunt by the society. Thus the economy is also greatly affected. The study reports that much of the crime, violence, and sexual abuse is due directly to this unaddressed problem.



Youth have come into contact with drugs through the following groups:

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Friends and peer groups | 88.2 % |
| Through relations       | 10 %   |
| Through foreigners      | 1.8 %  |

This statistic shows that peer groups have been responsible for introducing drugs and alcohol to children and youth. Therefore, youth have a great responsibility to prevent the spread of this menace.

## 2.4 Education

In the educational sphere ails of different types have created many problems. There is an absence of a well planned holistic education system in both rural and urban areas. There is also a disparity in the standards required of graduates and trained teachers from rural and urban areas have. Districts like Hambantota, Monaragala, Vaunia and Trincomalee are good examples of this trend. In these areas there are many school drop outs and a high examination failure ratio.

The education system is designed to prepare candidates for examinations and in its focus on testing, it compromises the attention paid to produce good citizens with high social values. This is a matter that needs to be looked into if we want the educational system to produce desired future leaders. The current education system has failed as to produce wholesome complete people endowed with literary, artistic and sports skills, instead it only trains people to achieve economic ends. Generally, it has only work to produce selfish and insensitive citizens.

In this way, it is important to have a programme to develop the personality of the youth and assume the leadership qualities required by the present society. As the present educational mold, it is sadly lacking in its ability to produce such people.

## 2.5 Health

According to World Health Organization (WHO) and World development data records, Sri Lanka has the high rating of 89% for those with access to health care services. Despite this high rate, much of the health services are limited to urban areas. The same records show that 250 people have died of HIV Aids, and that there are an estimated 3500 terminally ill patients. This situation is extremely relevant because the majority of these patients are between the ages of 15 and 45 years. The suicide rate it is is 46.1 males per every hundred thousand and 18.9 per every hundred thousand females. Further more, there are many other social problems like murders, illegal abortions, illegal pharmacies, quack doctors, prostitution, and unprecedented rates of accidents, which downgrades the body politic. The community has to be made aware of the serious repercussions and remedial measures have to be taken.



Similarly, greater attention needs to be paid to prevention rather than cures. Non-communicable diseases have a higher propensity to spread than those that are communicable. The main reason has been the negative daily hygienic practices like eating unhealthily, which leads to obesity. The issue of mental health in the nation also has to be taken into account in order to promote a mentally healthy society. The state has not adequately addressed psychosocial development.

Historically, Sri Lankan society has been intimately connected to the environment. It comprehensively wove the environment into its culture. Now, that situation has changed. According to a study in 2007 “Red data”, only 19,330 Sq km of jungles remain throughout the entirety of Sri Lanka. That is only 20%. In the same report, 21 of 72 plant species risk imminent extinction. This situation has arisen because the development of Sri Lanka has taken place without a proper evaluation of local ecological aspects. In addition, multinational companies have profited from the use of endemic plants and rare animal body parts. In this manner, ecological devastation is taking place unabated. Droughts, floods, landslides, storms, etc. take place regularly as a result of human actions. Villages receive much less attention than cities when such calamities occur.

Waste disposal is another major problem that local authorities have to face. The waste released to the environment is creating many ecological and health problems. In this situation, citizens should focus on creating an ecological equilibrium. What we require today is an eco-friendly society. Environmental sensitivity and eco-friendly attitudes should be developed especially among the youth of the country in order to shape a more environmentally sensitive future.

## 2.6 War environment

At this point of time, the war has ended, but a civil administration has yet to be established. Nearly three hundred thousand Internally Displaced People have to be resettled. The war that raged for the last 30 years has left many social and economic issues. Following are some of the main issues.

- Destruction of the resources and property.
- Orphaned children.
- Widowed women.
- Physically disabled children
- Educationally deprived children.
- Internally displaced People
- Psycho-social depression
- Loss of civil rights.
- Limitations on Human rights .
- Mistrust and aloofness among communities
- Break-down of a community social life.
- A general economic degradation.

The whole community has been adversely affected by these complex issues. The tragedy of the war has ended, bringing in its wake many challenges. The issues that arose from the war are lingering and have to be addressed. In Shanthi Sena's opinion, the government has taken



right decisions to provide a strong leadership, an improved infrastructure, and instill better discipline for all irrespective of differences, which Shanthi Sena believes plagued our country. A strong message is given that Sri Lanka has only one nation and one flag. The government is now sustaining programs focused on socio-economic development and nation building.

## 2.7 Economic background

The open economy and globalization has brought about many problems for the country. The establishment of new globalize policies, such as Free Trade Zones has started to decrease people's support of local agriculture. These large zones have led to the establishment of sub-cultures that need to be examined. Globalization has led benefits of globalization while a large majority has become increasingly poor. Heightened activity of multinational corporations has created a large challenge for the middle and lower middle class entrepreneurs. According to the Central Bank report of the year 2007. 6.6 % of the urban population, 82 % of the rural population, and 11..3 % of the estate sector are categorized as below the Sri Lankan poverty line. Unemployment figures are also rising. Unemployment stands at 5.2% or 396,000 people in the country. The report also states that 6 % of the youth are unemployed. There is a necessity to think about improving employment opportunities for the youth.

Workers in the estate sector are making a significant contribution to national productivity and economic growth. In light of their contribution to the economy, it is questionable whether adequate action is taken to improve their standard of living. Estate workers are faced with problems in matters like education, health, housing and even maintaining social connections. Thus steps should be taken to strengthen national productivity while also improving a standard of living. In this way, it can forge a self-reliant society.

## 2.8 Political background

There is a strong need to foster a political community that uses an intelligent discourse to make judicious political decisions. There should also be discussions on how to establish a broad political consciousness that surpasses petty party politics. Many believe that a national political structure based on national needs should be focused on earning the confidence of the people with aims to encourage their participation. Shanthi Sena believes that the following needs have to be addressed.

- The prevention of handing over political power to the uneducated and unsuitable.
- The improvement of a social code of ethics.
- The creation of a National policy.
- A decrease in political nepotism.
- An encouragement of establishing a true democracy.
- Decreased party politics.
- Increased consciousness of human rights.
- Stronger women representation.
- A decrease of political violence.
- Better freedom of the press.
- A return to good governance
- A reduction of corruption and bribery.



The new political culture characterized by elements of government centralization and dependency has created a dependent social welfare state. In order to receive relief, support or employment, people must have connections to the government.

Rural society that formerly enjoyed a traditional power base experienced a large change. The local power base used to consist of the priest in the village temple, the native physician, and school master. They played an important role in keeping the village administration and civil life in place. These roles have now been politicized, and these people are now often close associates of the politicians. Thus, power has shifted away from the traditional power base, and towards a more modernized political party system. Even the business community has developed allegiances to political parties. In this age of political allegiances, candidates have acted in the personal interest of their supporters. Just as it is necessary for a voter to be politically intelligent, politicians need to believe in political principles and respect peoples sovereignty and aspirations.

## 2.9 Cultural background

Though Sri Lanka can be described as a multi-cultural society, there is no doubt that Sinhala Buddhist culture has positively influenced harmonious living with others. However, there remain many problems. People are confused by the consumer orientated life style and competitive media culture. Appreciation and high taste in creativity, art, and literature is gradually receding. Popular media now has the power to dictate cultural standards. Art and culture are also politicized and controlled by a small group of people. There is a need for an intelligent discourse in this sphere.

## 3. Problems identified in the current social background

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- | Lack of adequate initiatives to prepare the youth for leadership in positions addressing national issues and a lack of opportunities for youth to develop their personality and leadership qualities
- | An individualistic society based on cast, creed, race, religion and other factors distracting from a united Sri Lankan outlook.
- | Social problems arising from the 30 year war.
- | Lack of broad initiatives to develop a Sri Lankan society where peace, justice and cooperation exist.
- | The present political party system which is violent, is not concerned with a national agenda, and limits the options for youth participation or leadership.
- | Inability to harness the physical strength of the youth towards social development.
- | Lack of Community participation in disaster management at national and rural level.
- | A Sri Lankan population that is not eco-friendly.
- | A diminished appreciation of art and a lack of knowledge about national culture among youth.
- | Emphasis on economic development in the absence of effective spiritual programmes that promote humanity
- | Lack of a national production process targeting the youth .
- | Health problems like drug abuse in youth.



- | An increase in non-communicable diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity.
- | A degradation of National culture

#### 4. How Sarvodaya Movement addresses the identified problems

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The Sarvodaya Movement has completed fifty years. Sarvodaya path to a new century was the theme selected to celebrate the occasion. The history has been traced as a magnanimous thought borne in the mind of one human being fifty years was transformed into action and developed into what is today a dynamic national people's movement while referring to its founder Dr A.T.Ariyaratne who propounded this noble idea.

Sarvodaya philosophy transcended race, religion, caste, party politics and made it acceptable to any place, any environment, any time. The movement helped them to organize themselves through self-reliance. The love, respect, and trust of the people flowed in ample measure.

The social evils of various dimensions covering the social fabric had to be addressed. The only national movement that has the strength credentials and ability to mobilize the people to change this decadent social and economic system and bring all Sri Lankans as one people is Sarvodaya

15000 villages have embraced Sarvodaya and evolved into a people's movement based on self reliance, self financing and self-help. Sarvodaya mechanism has the trappings that would lead to a non-violent revolution that empowers the people.

The main aim or the vision of the Sarvodaya Movement is to have a non-affluent, non-impooverished sustainable society. In order to achieve this goal, a broad spectrum of activity is undertaken focusing on the village as the base, with individual, family, and the community mobilized to support it. The wide aim of Sarvodaya is to empower the individual, and the family. This process continues from the family to the village, from the village to the town, from the town to the country and from the country to the whole world. Sarvodaya hopes to achieve a balanced development in both spiritual and physical spheres and thus prioritizes connection with spiritual, moral, cultural, social and economic areas. Sarvodaya expects to reach these goals through the above six fold development concepts enlisting the participation of the community. Sarvodaya has kept as its philosophy truth, non violence, and self-reliance as its base.

There are ten areas in which they focus their attention to achieve their goals;

#### 5. How Shanthi Sena addresses the problems that have been identified

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The challenges faced by the youth in Sri Lanka

Shanthi Sena is composed of youth between the ages of 15 and 30. This is the most vulnerable group in Sri Lankan society. According to the Census and Statistics figures of 2007, the youth have the following gender ratios:



|               |                |                  |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 15 – 19 years | Males 999000,  | Females 952,000. |
| 20 – 24 years | Males 910,000. | Females 931,000  |
| 25 -,29 years | Males 751,000  | Females 810,000  |

As of 2008, Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena has attracted nearly 113,000 youth of the above categories. Youth face many problems in the existing social, economic, political, cultural and ethnic scenario. The culture that is being promoted by media aggravates the situation even further. The “the get rich quick at any cost” phenomena have led to many unsocial activities. There should be a mechanism to properly direct the youth endowed with qualities of appreciation, creativity, and motivation to serve mankind for the development and rebuilding of Sri Lankan society. The media is responsible in influencing the youth to seek immediate physical gratification in a competitive atmosphere without encouraging creativity. Hence, many youth are having difficulties deciding what is best to be done for the community as citizens. Following are groups of youth who are facing various challenges that can be identified.

### **1. School drop outs**

- Drawn towards violence
- Kept out of participation in social development.
- Easily susceptible to being unemployed.
- Missed opportunities to get employment with recognition.
- Due to being uneducated, they tend to enter into underage marriages and face other social problems and inequities.
- Prone to being involved in anti-social and law breaking acts leading to drug abuse, sexual exploitation, and other harmful threats.

### **2. Youth who have received secondary and tertiary education, yet have inadequate Opportunities.**

- Inability to get employment commensurate with their education.
- Stress caused due to inability to provide for the family economy in a purposeful manner.
- Inferiority complex arising out of being unable to play a leading role due to the prevailing political culture.
- Inability to pursue higher education due to the poor economic situation
- Little time for extra-curricular activities due to the competitive nature of the education system leading to mental stress and low personality traits.

## **6. The vision, mission and objectives of Shanthi Sena**

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### **6.1 Vision**

Shanthi Sena seeks to create an active youth leadership enriched with a social, economic, and political consciousness to work towards the eradication of violence in a non-violent way. Shanthi Sena also hopes to build a society of ethnic and religious harmony, healthy citizens, eco-friendly consciousness, and especially non-violent humanitarian concerns through non-violent means.



## 6.2 Mission

1. To increase the knowledge and create awareness among the youth in order to empower the community
2. To empower the youth to achieve social justice through a new political philosophy.
3. To help meet the physical needs of the youth to ensure their economic stability and ability to pursue spiritual and personal goals.
4. To make a noticeable positive change in youth behavior that is acceptable to the society.
5. To improve skills and interpersonal relationships in order to strengthen social harmony.
6. To enable the youth to appreciate social difference to ensure religious and ethnic harmony. Additionally to create cross-cultural unity and alliance in a changing political environment.
7. To improve the eco-friendly attitudes to protect the eco-system
8. To enlist youth participation in the safeguarding of mental, physical and environmental health.

## 6.3 Objective

- ü . To bring forth a generation of morally accomplished youth with intelligence and wisdom, good personality, and leadership qualities.
- ü To work towards a Sri Lankan society endowed with peace, justice and cooperation.
- ü To promote volunteerism and a personal investment in rural development.
- ü To bring about a generation of youth with a political consciousness that can create a new political culture with a critical outlook.
- ü To bring forth a generation of youth with skills to propagate a strong viable national economy.
- ü To launch an educational and service orientated rural health development programme.
- ü To get the youth interested, motivated, and devoted to safeguarding the ecology and environment.
- ü To build a trained and active youth group that can respond spontaneously in times of disasters



- ü To empower the national art culture through creating youth endowed with a sense of high art appreciation.

## 7. The role of Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena

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Shanthi Sena believes that the Sri Lankan youth are the pioneers of a broad mission. It is the ambition of Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena to be the mechanism to create a positive society of youth through encouraging revolutionary thinking. The Sarvodaya Movement enlists Shanthi Sena to identify the youth that are politically conscious and willing to become a part of the village leadership. For this purpose, it is the duty of Shanthi Sena to mobilize the whole youth community.

Sarvodaya Shanti Sena was established in 1978 in response to religious and ethnic violence plaguing the nation. Its main goal is to establish a successful society embodied by religious and ethnic peaceful co-existence. After three decades, Shanthi Sena has embarked on a multifaceted journey. Sarvodaya society has entrusted the complete responsibility of providing a new direction of the youth to Shanthi Sena. The programme was outlined in the publication, “Sarvodaya way to a new century”. Its target population is the rural youth. This strategic five year plan has evolved in order to achieve Sarvodaya's goals of creating a peaceful society.

Through a broad programme Shanthi Sena hopes to shape youth with the following qualities:

1. Held in high regard
2. Good leadership skills
3. Personable
4. Politically conscious
5. Culturally sensitive
6. Multilingual
7. Good character
8. A community leader
9. Strong, vibrant, and ambitious

## 8. Proposed Programmes

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Shanthi Sena has identified the following programmes as feasible to carry out over the next five years:

### **8.1. Establishing a Youth Network**

This is the foundation of the Shanthi Sena movement. Youth networks are established in rural villages when rural youth assemble groups of two units, each unit containing a maximum of eleven youth. The group then designates to be trained by Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena. After training, the youth leader can register her or his group with Sarvodaya in their respective villages and start the process of group education and service work.



Shanthi Sena currently reaches 3000 villages with a membership of 119326 youth. Within the next 05 years, Shanthi Sena hopes to enlist 1000 villages and increase the membership by 30,000 youth.

Shanthi Sena has 65% Sinhalese, 20% Tamil, and 15 % Muslim youth. Within the next five years, Shanthi Sena hopes that this ratio will increase to 25% Tamil & 20% Muslims.

Shanthi Sena also wants groups to be strong enough to carry out their own activities by bringing communities together on their own initiatives. With adequate support, the Shanthi Sena headquarters and Shanthi Sena youth groups can both be encouraged to do the following activities.

### **8.2. Inter-Ethnic Youth Exchange Camps**

The youth cultural exchange camps bring the youth of the North, East, and the South together. Within these camps, a hosting village will invite around 100 to 150 youth from around the country to live with their local families and engage in inter-ethnic dialogue, sports activities, and cultural programs. During the Shramadana campaigns the local youth and those from neighboring villages would make up to any thing from 300 and even more These camps provide youth opportunities to interact and get to know each other. In this way, the youth draw from personal experience to understand the cultural similarities of the different groups, and how to appreciate each other's differences. The dialogue initiated through the program enables the youth to appreciate the values of their respective cultures and religions. The intolerance, misunderstandings, and myths of conscious and unconscious prejudice can be dispelled by encouraging strong cross-ethnic friendships and interactions. The opportunity they get enabled them to forge new friendships. Use of Shramadana work, the sharing of labour, creates an atmosphere were young people can work together and explore their commonalities. These camps also include the valuable participation of clergy and civil society leaders. During times of heightened ethnic conflict, these camps brought about a source of sanity which helped relieve the tension of the participants. Now that Sri Lanka is in what is called, a “post-war” period, it is essential that Shanthi Sena works exceedingly hard to ensure that ethnic conflict will be addressed before it once again emerges.

In the past 05 years, Shanthi Sena held 60 camps. Within the next 05 years, Shanthi Sena would like to hold 20 camps annually.

### **8.3 Dialogues between religious leaders and youth**

Youth organize dialogues between different religious leaders. These dialogues aim to encourage religious sharing. Out of these dialogues come ideas, proposals, declarations by the youth aimed at encouraging peace and understanding.. Shanthi Sena hopes to awaken the nation’s conscientiousness on issues like peace and unity in order to give direction to policy makers. These activities are youth initiated and youth organized.

Within the next 05 years, Shanthi Sena wants to hold these dialogues at an annual rate of:  
25 number of divisional dialogues  
09 number of provincial level dialogues  
01 number of national conferences.



#### **8.4. Networking with similar institutions.**

Through working with organizations of similar interest, Shanthi Sena groups are able to work more fruitfully and effectively. Within the next five years Shanthi Sena hopes to network with more organizations with grass roots connections and national networks that focus on youth.

#### **8.5. To encourage learning of languages**

One of the most noticeable social problems in the country is the language disparity. A majority of Sinhalese people cannot speak Tamil, and a significant number of Tamil and Muslim people cannot speak Sinhala. This damages the relationships of the respective ethnic groups, and can only be sustain ably addressed by encouraging Sri Lankan youth to learn both Sinhala and Tamil.

Currently Shanthi Sena holds language classes in its district centers, and has started selling Tamil-Sinhala phrase books as a fundraiser to encourage its youth to learn each other's languages. Also within the village level requirement to receive a Shanthi Sena badge, its youth must pass a test demonstrating a certain level of proficiency in both Tamil and Sinhala. Shanthi Sena especially encourages its youth to gain conversational proficiency in the other language so that they can communicate effectively with each other. Within the next 05 years Shanthi Sena hopes to publish story books on peace written by Sri Lankan youth. These books will be published in Tamil and Sinhala.

#### **8.6. De - Institutionalization Programme for children**

As a youth movement Shanthi Sena's attention is drawn to the welfare of children. As part of a pilot project in the Galle District, Shanthi Sena youth are organized and trained to help the Sarvodaya societies to identify vulnerable children at risk of being institutionalized. The goal is to safely reunite these children with their families, or to find them safe environments to live in. In some cases, the parents and guardians are responsible for this unfortunate situation. In cases of unsafe homes, or in cases of neglect due to mothers leaving for employment in the Middle East without proper care, Shanthi Sena members are trained to identify, monitor and help the children together with the support of the community.

#### **8.7. Environment programmes.**

A part of the training program of Shanthi Sena includes information about the environment and how it can be protected. Environment conservation and biodiversity are elements of this education. The aim is to establish environmentally friendly communities who will safe guard the environment and conserve the bio diversity.

Currently Shanthi Sena includes an environmental component in its youth training program.. Activities like undertaking hiking, trips, envorenment preservation and planting of trees, identifying flora and fauna and herbal medicines are encouraged.

Within the next 05 years, Shanthi Sena hopes to increase the activities in connection with the sensitization about the environment, undertaking simple testing for pure water, identifying pests and such activities. .



## **8.8. Community health programmes.**

Shanthi Sena hopes to promote educational and service orientated activities in order to create awareness about communicable and non- communicable diseases. Shanthi Sena believes that “health is a fundamental right” of the people. In order to help realize this, Shanthi Sena trains its youth in diagnosing treating common diseases and maintaining good health by encouraging preventative care. This education program works by training youth leaders at the Sarvodaya headquarters, and then having the leaders hold education programs in their own districts and villages. Youth hold workshops that educate about issues of blood sugar, BMI, and treating cases of diarrhea and Dengue fever. The Department of social Services has enlisted a few youth to be trained in diagnosing hearing impaired people. Shanthi Sena also encourages the practice of traditional Ayurvedha medicine. Shanthi Sena hopes that through these education programs, it can prevent the Sri Lankan communities from being exploited by lucrative and black market drug schemes, and be able to take control of their own health. Shanthi Sena also hopes to encourage more people to use the government run hospitals when necessary. Currently Shanthi Sena trains around 150 youth a year at its headquarters.

Once Shanthi Sena youth are educated about health techniques and issues, they are encouraged to open health centers and herbal gardens in their villages. Currently around 400 “Suwadana”, Shanthi Sena youth run, health centers are operating within the nation.

Within the next 5 years Shanthi Sena hopes to maintain its 400 operating Suwadana centers, and to expand the program to have the Suwadana health centers in all 1000 Grama Swarja Sarvodaya communities.

## **8.9. Emergency services**

Shanthi Sena encourages its youth to be prepared for natural and man made disasters, which in the past included the Tsunami, floods, earth quakes, the civil war. Shanthi Sena trained voluntary service groups to provide relief to those who have faced disasters. Relief activities include bringing food and water, providing health and sanitation aid, providing psycho-social help, and participating in resettlement programs. Shanthi Sena societies have specific emergency service groups who are prepared to respond to disasters at short notice. These groups receive support from additional Shanthi Sena youth who are mobilized to work alongside them. The Shanthi Sena youth work in tandem with the adults of the Sarvodaya movement network. When the Tsunami hit Sri Lanka in 2004, Shanthi Sena youth operated relief camps in 226 Tsunami struck villages. Currently over 200 Shanthi Sena members are working full time helping in the Internally Displaced People Camps in North and in the East.

Currently Shanthi Sena holds two emergency training programs a year. Shanthi Sena trains its leaders in emergency and disaster management training. Within the next five years, Shanthi Sena hopes to hold at least five annual emergency training of trainers programs at the national level reaching 200 youth who can hold their own trainings at the district and village level.



### **8.10. Programmes that create awareness about leadership and politics**

Shanthi Sena hopes to encourage new political consciousness by bringing together youth and civil society leaders through two day workshops. These workshops include programmes, dialogues, and conferences addressing current political, economic, and social issues facing the community. The ultimate goal of this programme is to empower youth to be politically conscious and promote decentralization of power in ways that will encourage the self-determination of the rural villagers.

This program has yet to be established. Given enough financial support, Shanthi Sena will be able to conduct these workshops in 1000 Grama Swarjya village by training at least two youth from each village.

### **8.11 Economic stability**

Shanthi Sena has been aware of the youth anxiety due to under employment and un employment. The prevailing educational system has only trained them for examinations without skills. The lack of English knowledge has also aggravated this situation. Only a fraction of the students who sit the GCE AL examination can get a higher education. The disparity between the rich and the poor in this sphere has caused the rich to get a better education locally and abroad while the not so rich have to make do with what opportunities available. Thus our youth should be encouraged to diversify their aspirations and take to agriculture, small industries and self employment opportunities

The settled conditions after the war and development trends in the country could bring hope for better times for our youth. But they should be properly equipped to benefit from such a change that is taking place. Greater emphasis should be laid in learning English and Tamil for the Sinhalese youth and vice a versa

### **8.12 Youth Resource center**

There are plans to open a Youth Resource center in every district. This facility would serve as a meeting point for the youth in the area they can discuss and gain knowledge through information gathered by modern technology and counseling services on issues relating social, educational, Economic and health issues. These centers could be managed by the youth leaders of the area. Following activities are designed to be carried out at these centers.

#### **8.12.1 Open a window to the world**

The youth of today should essentially enter the modern World. The knowledge of English and Information technology are two main factors that have a bearing on this issue. The aim of this venture is to give Shanthi Sena youth an exposure to the basic of Computer science and English language It would open the world open the world to the youth by being able to use the internet, emails and other modern technologies and get vital information. It is expected to give enough knowledge to get information and exchange ideas through these means



### **8.12.2 Information desks**

Shanthi Sena youth leaders elicit information on vocational training, higher education and employment opportunities, marketing information, health information etc and proliferate them among those who look for such information. Greater use of computer for this purpose will be used.

### **8.12.3 Meeting place for the youth.**

A main objective of Shanthi Sena is to encourage co-existence and harmony among all communities through cooperation and understanding. As highlighted in the action plan opportunities would be provided for them to meet as regularly as possible to look for ways and means of putting them into action. Lack of such facilities in most villages has been observed. Hence through these initiatives it would be possible establish a joint committee in every district. The young people with their exuberance and innovative ideas could evolve many programmes that would help to achieve better understanding and mutual help. They could plan dialogues among groups, inter faith exchange camps, debating on topics like peaceful co-existence and other educational programs,

### **8.13. Financial Sustainability / Endowment Fund**

Shanti Sena should not be viewed as project orientated but rather as an institution oriented organization focusing on longevity and long term results. In this vein, it is important to build a strong endowment fund in order to become financially self sustainable. The aim should be increase the fund that stands at ten million, to twenty million rupees by 2015.

Shanthi Sena is officially financially independent from Sarvodaya, but receives some financial support on certain projects from the organization. Currently Shanthi Sena is supported by the proceeds they get from sales of Tamil-Sinhala phrasebooks, a sticker campaign, fundraiser programs, job weeks, and outside donors.

## 9. Expected Results

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1. Produced youth with leadership qualities and suitable personality in the country in order that the could contribute to make a real change in the society.
2. Established a society that strives for peaceful co-existence through understanding and mutual trust.
3. Established an environment that created a society that has confidence and trust among the inter-religious groups through strengthening relations with dialogues among religious leaders
4. Community organizations with similar aims have networked to do joint social work.
5. Have established a society where inter-personal relationships among communities have strengthened through an effort at learning Tamil by Sinhala youth and vice a versa.



6. Created an eco-friendly society that would ensure an environment that is secure.
7. Secured the vulnerable children's welfare through the interest created among the youth to look for children in the society who are likely to be abused and abandoned.
8. Produced trained relief workers who could provide relief to victims of emergencies both man made and natural and also create awareness to be prepared to meet any disasters.
9. Created a society with better hygienic conditions by making the rural population aware of communicable and non-communicable diseases and control them through the contribution that the youth with such knowledge including re-productive health have made.
10. Created an interest among the society to look for a form of power that goes beyond the present political power base, and put pressure to evolve a new decentralized political system by having dialogues and discussions in this regard. It also has increased the interest in the society regarding human rights and good governance.
11. Have brought up the youth with hope and aspirations for a better future through proper direction about education and acquiring required skills to find suitable employment
12. Through the youth Resource Centers the youth had the opportunity have a greater understanding of world affairs. The information distributed had made the youth more receptive to opportunities available. Unexpected advantages and facilities had helped the youth who patronize these centers to improve their lot
13. Shanthi Sena has emerged as a financially stable organization with targeted youth membership dedicated to achieve the objectives of the organization

## 10. Managements System

### **10.1 Legal entity**

Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena Movement started as a unit under the Sarvodaya Movement. In keeping with policy of the Movement the units that expended its volume of work and due to the nature of its specialized work were made independent bodies as legal entities. Thus Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena has been registered under the Companies Act.

### **10.2 Board of Directors**

In keeping with regulations of the Act a Board of Directors drawn civic leaders like University lecturers, lawyers accountants etc including the Director of Shanthi Sena Sansadaya making up 10 members that form the Board. Dr A.T Ariyaratne is the Patron who attends special meetings on invitation. Regular meetings are held once a month to review the month's work and direct the Director of future work. The financial statements too are presented at these meetings. .



### **10.3 Executive council**

At the Annual General meeting an executive council of 30 members represented by grass root level leaders, District level representatives and national level civic leaders and friends of Sarvodaya are elected. This is the highest body according to the constitution that meet quarterly and take decisions as the final authority..

### **10.4 Finance control & Audits**

This is an important section here a qualified accountant and the staff is supervised by a qualified treasurer. Monthly statements are issued to the Board of Directors. Auditing is done at the conclusion of every project. The annual audit is also done and the reports are presented to the Board of Directors and at the AGM. In keeping with regulations the report is submitted to the Registrar of Companies.

### **10.5 Staff**

There is a staff headed by the Executive Director, a Deputy Executive and a staff of 6 others at the head office. The project staff varies according to the needs, at the moment there 15 field officers. There are specialized officers like training staff, and programme coordinators. Voluntary consultants specializing in various fields too are available to perform at a higher level. It is very significant that there are many volunteers who can be called for duty when the need arise. Most members of the staff and volunteers belong to all three communities.

### **10.6. Monitoring & Evaluation**

The monitoring and evaluation is done at several stages. Initially the District coordinators of Shanthi Sena as well as Sarvodaya District and Divisional Coordinators attend to this duty. The District Leaders council meets every month to review the work that is conducted. Every 3 months they send reports to be analyzed by the Head office. The office staff make random visits to monitor the activities. There is an evaluation meeting every three months with all field and office staff. There are special evaluations done by outside professionals and such reports are published.

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